

JOHN BULL

Vol. II. No. 41.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16th, 1907.

ONE PENNY.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

*The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull*

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P.



Contents

Woman's Place in Politics: Our
Solution.

The World, The Flesh, and The Devil.

John Bull's Biscuits.

Cold Storage and Rotten Meat

John Bull in the City.

John Bu'l in the Courts

The Alarming Increase of Sobriety

John Bull's Post-cards.

The Cartoon.

Among the Mummers

John Bull's Womenfolk.

Bull's Eyes.

Letter Bag.

Racing, etc.

This notice is not an invitation to the public to subscribe for shares, but is published for the purpose of giving information only, and applications for shares can only be received on the forms accompanying the full prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's bankers with a cheque for the sum payable on application.

A COPY OF THE FULL PROSPECTUS, DATED MARCH 8, 1907, HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE REGISTRAR OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST is now OPEN, and will CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, the 14th day of March, 1907, for Town and Country.

DE DION-BOUTON (1907) LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)	
SHARE CAPITAL	£195,000,
divided into	
185,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each	£185,000
and	
200,000 DEFERRED SHARES of 1s. each	10,000
	£195,000

The Ordinary Shares are entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the amounts paid up thereon, and after such payment the profits available for dividend will be divided as to one-third among the Ordinary Shareholders, and as to two-thirds among the Deferred Shareholders, in each case in proportion to the amounts paid up on the Ordinary and Deferred Shares held by them. On a winding-up the Ordinary Shares will be entitled to a preference both as regards capital and the arrears of the preferential dividend down to the commencement of and the arrears of the preferential dividend down to the commencement of the winding-up, and any surplus remaining after such payment, one-third shall go to the holders of the Ordinary Shares and the remaining two-thirds to the holders of the Deferred Shares, in each case in proportion to the amounts paid up on the Ordinary and Deferred Shares held by them.

THE ABOVE 185,000 ORDINARY SHARES ARE NOW OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION.

Payable as follows: 2s. per Share on Application, 3s. per Share on Allotment, 5s. per Share one month after Allotment, 5s. per Share two months after Allotment, 5s. per Share three months after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

SELWYN FRANCIS EDGE (Chairman), 3, Whitehall Court, Westminster, London, S.W., Merchant.
JOHN WILLIAM STOCKS (Managing Director in England), 10, Great Marlborough Street, London, W., Merchant.
HERBERT OSBALDESTON DUNCAN (Managing Director in France), 57, Rue Bayan, Paris, Merchant.
S. VAN DEN BERGH, 82 and 83, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., Merchant.
W. SCOTT-LEEFE, 23, Coleman Street, London, E.C., Export Merchant.
ARTHUR I. PHILLIPS, 112, Commercial Street, London, E., Manufacturer.

BANKERS.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED, 222, Strand, London, W.C., and other branches.

SOLICITORS.

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP and CO., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, London, WALTER B. STYER, 11 and 12, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.

C. F. BURTON, SEWELL and CO., Chartered Accountants, 35, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

LAZENBY BROTHERS and PAINE, 20, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C., and London Stock Exchange.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

WALTER MUNN, 10, GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET, LONDON, W.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The full Prospectus contains, amongst other things, statements to the following effect:—

This Company has been formed to acquire the undertaking, business, goodwill, leasehold premises, contracts and rights, and (with the exception of certain Shares in the Dion-Dunlop Motor Company, Limited), the whole of the property of De Dion-Bouton, Limited (a Company registered in England in 1899), who are the exclusive Selling Agents in the United Kingdom and the British Colonies and Dependencies of Cars manufactured by the celebrated French manufacturers, De Dion-Bouton et Cie., and to acquire the well-known "De Dion-Bouton" Patents, relating to road and water traction—namely, No. 22,762 of 1900, 22,763 of 1900, 3,625 of 1902, and 8,551 of 1902 for the United Kingdom; 69,782 of 1901, 71,272 of 1901, 71,729 of 1901, and 71,921 of 1901 for Canada; 2,217 of 1901, for Cape Colony; and 10,657 of 1900, 10,943 of 1901, and 10,944 of 1901 for New South Wales; under which the Company will be able to manufacture Motor-Cars, Omnibuses, Cabs, Delivery Vans, and Motor Vehicles of every description.

The Company is also acquiring the licences in respect of such patents, granted to the Motor Traction Company (1905), Limited; and the Mercedes Daimler and De Dion Motor Company of Great Britain, Limited, and the benefit of certain agreements relating to the importation into this country of 810 omnibuses or omnibus chassis, manufactured by De Dion-Bouton et Cie.

This Company will thus control in the United Kingdom and the above-named Colonies and Dependencies the whole manufacture and sale of Motor Vehicles manufactured under the "De Dion-Bouton" Patents above-mentioned, and no such vehicle (unless already licensed) can be imported into or used in such countries without first being licensed by this Company.

This Company will take over unexecuted orders for Motors amounting to over £59,000, and the benefit of orders for Motors executed since September 30, 1906, amounting to over £50,000.

In the test trials organised by the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland and the Scottish Automobile Club, and in the test trials held in the Colonies and on the Continent, "De Dion-Bouton" cars have gained an exceptional record for "Excellence of Workmanship," "Reliability," "Durability," and "Hill Climbing."

This Company has secured for a period of seven years the services of Mr. S. F. Edge and Mr. J. W. Stocks, as Chairman and Managing Director respectively. Both these gentlemen have successfully organised and conducted the business of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, and have been connected with extensive and profitable businesses in the Motor Trade.

The profits of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, have been made by the sale of imported "De Dion" Cars, and component parts and accessories thereof, but, having no manufacturing rights, their Car business has been restricted to the sale of such Cars and component parts as they have been able to obtain from De Dion-Bouton et Cie. The business of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, has from its incorporation steadily increased, as will be seen from the following returns of the annual profits (calculated down to September 30 in each year), which have been certified by Messrs. Craig, Gardner and Harris, Chartered Accountants, who have furnished the Company with the following report:—

20, Copthall Avenue,
London, E.C.

To the Directors of

DE DION-BOUTON (1907), LIMITED.

We hereby certify that the profits of De Dion-Bouton, Limited (of which Company we have been Auditors since its Incorporation), not including Interest on Investments and on Bank Deposits, have been as follows:—

Period to year ending 30th September,	£ s. d.
1900...	800 15 5
" " " " " 1901...	4,319 8 6
" " " " " 1902...	8,017 9 0
" " " " " 1903...	9,245 13 11
" " " " " 1904...	11,492 0 11
" " " " " 1905...	15,183 14 8
" " " " " 1906...	20,163 16 9

The above profits are arrived at before charging Directors' Fees, Managing Director's Commission, Manager's and Secretary's salaries, and their commissions (which during the year 1906 amounted to £2,000 2s. 6d.), Royalties, and Interest and Expenses on loans, but such profits have been arrived at after allowing for payment of Rent, Rates, and Trade Commissions, and all other expenses incidental to the business.

In the Balance Sheet at 30th September, 1906, the value of the Assets of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, after deducting the liabilities as shown by the said Balance Sheet, exceeded the sum of £20,391.

(Signed) CRAIG, GARDNER, AND HARRIS.

25th February, 1907.

As the Company are acquiring under the Agreement No. 5 below-mentioned the above patents, no royalties will in future be payable by this Company.

Messrs. Edge and Stocks are of opinion that on an annual output of 1,500 Cars being attained a net manufacturing profit of at least £78,500 should be made therefrom.

Taking this estimate as a basis, and adding thereto the estimated profit to be derived from the sale of imported Cars, the profits available for distribution should be at least £90,000, which would enable this Company to pay.

7 per cent. on the 185,000 Ordinary Shares £12,950 and leave over £67,000 available for distribution among the Ordinary and Deferred Shares, and for providing for depreciation, reserve, Directors' fees, Manager's and Secretary's salaries and commissions.

This issue (when subscribed) will (after payment of the preliminary expenses, estimated at £20,000, which includes underwriting commission and brokerage) provide this Company with a sum in cash of over £96,000, out of which the sum of £2,000 will be paid to S. F. Edge, under Contract No. 5.

The undertaking, business, goodwill, etc., of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, consists of stock-in-trade, sundry debtors, cash in hand and at the bankers, furniture, fittings, plant, and other assets, and these, after deducting the liabilities in carrying on the business as shown by the balance-sheet of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, of the 30th September, 1906, and certified by Messrs. Craig, Gardner, and Harris, as shown in the above report, exceeded £20,391, and this amount will be payable out of the above sum of £96,000. The business of De Dion-Bouton, Limited, will be taken over as from the 30th September, 1906, and the profits will, as from such date, belong to this Company. Messrs. Edge and Stocks have informed the Directors that the assets, after deducting the liabilities, should now exceed the above sum of £20,391.

A brokerage of 6d. per Share in respect of all shares allotted in response to applications bearing brokers' stamps will be paid by this Company. Brokerage will not be paid in respect of applications sent in in direct relief of underwriting.

The Contracts and Certificate of the Auditors referred to in the full Prospectus and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of this Company may be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company, on any day before the closing of the subscription list, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The full prospectus with forms of application can be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, or Brokers to the Company.

JOHN BULL.

*Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant;
Without Fear or Favour—Rancour or Rant.*

Vol. II. No. 41.

Saturday, March 16th, 1907.

One Penny.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

PER ANNUM, POST FREE.
UNITED KINGDOM — — — — — 6s. 6d.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES WITHIN THE POSTAL UNION — — — — — 8s. 6d.
SHORTER OR LONGER PERIODS IN PROPORTION.
All business communications to be addressed to the Publisher,
JOHN BULL, 4, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London.

THEATRES, ENTERTAINMENTS, ETC.

DALY'S THEATRE.—Under the Management of Mr. GEORGE EDWARDS, EVERY EVENING at 8.15, MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30, the new Comedy Opera, entitled—
"THE LADY DANDIES" (THE MARVELLEUSES).
Box-office 10 to 10. Telephone 3885 Gerrard.

ALHAMBRA.—"QUEEN OF SPADES," New Ballet.
Mlle. Alexis (danseuse de genre).
"L'AMOUR" Ballet. URBANORA Up-to-Date Pictures, Etc.
Doors 7.45. Manager, George Scott.

DETECTIVE WORK.

Divorce and Confidential Inquiries Undertaken by
WM. PIERREPONT,
With SBOREY, ABILITY, and DESPATCH.
GO TO HIM IF BLACKMAILED, Troubled, or in Difficulties.
Special experience also in Will Cases.
WM. PIERREPONT, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C.
T.A.: "Bulldog, London." T.N.: 10,773 Central.
REFERENCES TO LEADING LONDON SOLICITORS.

WHY PAY RENT?

The BRITISH HOMES SCHEME enables Policy-holders to reap the benefit of their investment
DURING THEIR OWN LIFETIME
and in the event of premature death to leave their legal representatives in possession of a comfortable home free from any mortgage charge or encumbrance. Particulars post free. **GOOD PROSPECTS FOR ACTIVE AGENTS.**
BRITISH HOMES ASSURANCE CORPORATION, Ltd.
6 Paul-st., Finsbury, E.C. M. GREGORY, Managing Director.

WOMAN'S PLACE IN POLITICS.

OUR SOLUTION.

We did not follow the debate last week. The fact is, there is nothing new to be said upon the abstract right of woman to full citizenship—unless it is suggested that she is something less than a human being, an imperfectly developed vassal to man. It is only when we come to the practical expression of that abstract right that difficulty begins to arise. We do not view with much apprehension the risk of domestic discord which might occasionally arise between husband and wife over the proposed exercise of their respective votes. That might well constitute a much-needed diversion from the hum-drum monotony of their daily lives. Nor, assuming the female franchise to be confined to spinsters, do we think there would be any danger of national depopulation, or national immorality, through the reluctance of enlightened ladies to surrender the freedom of citizenship for the bondage of matrimony. Nor are we satisfied that the more active participation of women in electoral contests, consequent upon their political enfranchisement, would necessarily involve such a neglect of the baby as to bring about a further increase of the already alarming figures of infantile mortality. All these things we view with complete composure. In short, we find no justification for withholding the vote from woman upon grounds of either justice or expediency.

But it is when we come to the logical consequences of the reform that grave difficulties arise. If it be wrong that woman should be asked to obey a Govern-

ment for which she has not voted, *a fortiori* she cannot be asked to obey laws which she has had no part in making. Hence the right to the vote must in due course be followed by the right to a seat in Parliament. And if it be right for woman to vote for law-makers and to make laws, she is equally entitled to her part in administration. Hence she is entitled to sit upon the Bench. And being thus clothed with full citizenship, she acquires not only the right, but equally the obligation, to defend her country and its Empire. Hence she must take her place in battle, whether on sea or land. She must also go to the furthest ends of the earth as civil or military servant of the State. Of course, it may be said that man, out of gallantry, may be willing to excuse her from some of these obligations. But all men are not gallant, and all women are not amenable to patronage or concession.

In these circumstances, we have long been concerned to discover a *modus vivendi*, compatible alike with first principles and with practical statesmanship. We assume it to be both undesirable and impracticable for woman, from physical and psychological causes, to discharge the full obligations of citizenship. We assume it to be both desirable and practicable for her to take an active part in the making and the administration of the laws of her country. How is it to be done? First, she must have a vote. That is an easy matter. In any Act of Parliament conferring the Parliamentary franchise, the word "person" must mean a woman as well as a man. That is simple enough. But here we part company with all we have so far heard of. Given the franchise, the following is our solution of the whole problem.

We propose that all existing constituencies should be grouped, for the purpose of the female franchise, into special divisions, numbering altogether, say, one hundred, and that for each of such divisions a woman only should be eligible for election. We propose, further, that a third House of Parliament should be created, to consist of these hundred elected women. The exact powers to be granted to this third House, in the first instance, must of course be a matter of negotiation and of compromise. They could, however, be extended from time to time—just as the membership could be increased until it ultimately reached that of the Commons. In this way all the disadvantages—the insuperable disadvantages—of a mixed Parliament, working under conditions unadaptable to the exigencies of sex and other physical disabilities, would be overcome. The Women's Parliament could, and doubtless would, direct its principal attention to subjects of special interest to women. It would make its own regulations, meeting at such hours and under such conditions as it thought best, and Parliament would obtain, what it now entirely lacks, the authoritative expression of women's views upon all questions of public policy.

We should be glad to know the views of the women's leaders and others upon this proposal, which we are satisfied constitutes the only solution of an otherwise interminable and undignified conflict between the two sexes.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

What say our contemporaries now with regard to Mr. Chamberlain? We must really congratulate the "Daily News," however, for its complacent assertion that "the truth has long been known." It isn't known yet—except to a few of us. We have endeavoured to prepare the public for it—the rest will soon follow.

Amongst the causes of the Progressive defeat which have not received due attention was the pertinacity of the Puritan faddists in pushing their narrow aims. The "Daily News" and the "Chronicle" did incalculable mischief by persistently identifying all sportsmen and publicans with the Municipal Reformers. On the eve of the election Canon Horsley and Dr. Clifford also put forward mischievous manifestoes. In Norwood, where a dissenting minister followed the same tack, the Progressives lost two seats. In Hammersmith, where Mr. Camp, the Progressive candidate, had talked in a similar strain, saying "that every low public-house and music-hall, and all the scum one could find, supported the Municipal Reformers," he lost the election for himself and his colleague. On the other hand, Stewart Headlam, the arch anti-Puritan, got a splendid majority in Bethnal Green; the Rev. Silvester Horne went down before Mr. George Alexander; and in South Hackney, under a robust leadership, the two Progressives got in by a huge majority. That is the moral of the contest. But when will the Liberal party realise it?

As our readers are by this time aware, we are not strong on Party, and the following extract from the "Gipsy Road Church Messenger," Norwood, for the present month, issued, under the auspices of the Rev. W. J. Avery, in connection with the late L.C.C. election, strikes us as nauseating cant and hypocrisy—

"The County Council election on March 2 will decide some momentous issues for the people of London. Do all that you can in *every possible way* for the return of Messrs. Hubbard and Shrubbsall. Throughout the Metropolis votes will be cast on the other side by company promoters, slum landlords, drink sellers, bookmakers, and brothel-keepers. It will be the stiffest fight ever known, and followers of Jesus Christ must make a stand for honesty, sobriety, purity, decency, and economy. Be not deceived by the lies and slanders disseminated through the Yellow Press. The London County Council has not been responsible for more than the smallest fraction of increased rating, although it has done much towards giving us a renovated municipality.

We understand that upon the candidates on whose behalf this manifesto was issued lodging a protest with the pastor, his explanation was that "what he had written was for private circulation among his congregation, and not for the general public." A poor compliment to his flock.

By the way, since the rout of the Progressives, the Northcliffe journals have been hinting to the Moderate victors that they might do worse in starting their career at Spring Gardens than get rid of the present London County Council staff. "It were better," we are told, "that every official who forgets his place should leave Spring Gardens than that the new Council should be hampered in a task which under any circumstances must be one of gigantic magnitude." This is the Tammany method. When Tammany wins in New York all the places go to the creatures of Tammany. Apparently the leader of the Moderates has different views. "We have the greatest possible confidence in our present staff," he says; and unless and until events belie his words we shall decline to believe that the Moderates intend to rush highly trained officials out to

make jobs for their own supporters within. An equivalent notion would be to discharge all the permanent officials in the Government departments on a change of ministry. This sort of thing is not popular in England. It is reserved for the greater countries, such as America.

Even according to the testimony of their opponents, the Socialist schools are orderly and well conducted. That they are lively and intelligent the following little hymn taught in them will serve to show:—

Mary opened a little shop,
To help her on life's way,
And honest toil found fit reward,
For it began to pay.

"How's biz?" the landlord often asked,
And Mary was imprudent;
Of course, she never guessed he was
An economic student.

But Mary's landlord's eagle eye
Was watching how things went;
And when the First of May came round,
He doubled Mary's rent.

The imposition staggered her;
But what could Mary do?
Subsistence bare is the tenant's share,
All above is the landlord's due.

So Mary kept on as before,
Improving as she went;
But, step by step, with increased trade,
The landlord raised the rent.

And thus the merry game went on,
Till Mary's life was spent;
As far as God could prosper her,
The landlord raised her rent.

What would have happened if Mary had had a little lamb we hesitate to conjecture.

According to an American paper, ever since Biblical days, when tax collectors were classed with sinners, respectable people have sought to evade taxation. This being a wicked as well as a wondrous world, even the Chancellor of the Exchequer is not surprised that the respectable should still continue the shocking practice. The sin is hereditary. It runs in the blood, and creeps out in the bone, therefore the Exchequer has devised sundry forms in blue, yellow, and white to be filled in under penalty, so that the temptation to cheat and deceive may be reduced to a minimum. After all, it is the playful evasions of the race, when called on to part with hard-earned wealth for the good of the country, which keeps Chancellors of the Exchequer, Permanent Secretaries, Income-tax Surveyors, and other charming officials, in large salaries and nice clothes. If all the respectable turned honest and paid their just dues to the uttermost farthing, we should want fewer forms, and therefore fewer officials; indeed, we should want no forms at all, and half the red tape manufacturers would go bankrupt. On the whole, therefore, we may as well rub along as usual in our native sin and wickedness.

Some amazing persons, calling themselves the National Vigilance Society, have been viewing the work exhibited by students in the Walker Art Gallery at Liverpool, and it is their unanimous opinion that some of the pictures are not "quite nice." At the moment of writing we have no details as to the parts in which they are nasty; but if the objection of the National Vigilance Society is that some of the painted figures do not wear clothes, or wear them only in places, then our wonder is that these particular persons do not swoop down on the National Gallery with ten thousand yards of flannel, and drape the old masters in the style they consider most suitable. There are more than one or two Venuses who look rather cold. Still, it is well they are on canvas. Otherwise we would not guarantee their safety amongst these people.

The Archbishop of York must be careful. Recently the Vicar of a Scarborough church undertook to address a meeting of men at a local Wesleyan chapel, and though, as the vicar has explained, it was "merely an unconventional talk to a body of men, some ninety in number, many of them churchmen, and the meeting was open to all," his Right Rev. Father in God prohibited the function. What good the Right Rev. Father, &c., expects to do by this sort of narrow-minded bigotry and intolerance we are unable to conceive. Instead of drawing the people nearer the Church it makes them contemptuous of it.

Another instance of what we have been saying about the widespread prevalence of the Eternal Lie and the non-existence of the pretty fiction which is called Truth, is furnished by the resignation of the Governor of Jamaica. Now the plain man-in-the-street would naturally jump to the conclusion that Sir Alexander Swettenham has decided to give himself the sack because Sir Edward Grey rubbed him badly the wrong way over the Uncle Jonathan incident, and made him eat his words and consume his own smoke; and the man-in-the-street would be justified of his belief. But the bland eccentricity of officialism explains that the Governor has resigned on the ground of age. It would be just as true to say he has resigned on account of the toothache, or because he is no longer able to grow hair on the apex of his anatomy.

There is a good reason for the suggestion of Mr. Leif Jones, M.P., that British ships should be required to carry rocket apparatus just as they are required to carry life-belts. There appears to have been a rocket apparatus at the Hook of Holland when the "Berlin" sank, but it could not be worked "owing to the distance of the vessel from the shore." Mr. Leif Jones points out, and we have no doubt he is correct, that it would be much easier to communicate by rocket apparatus from ship to shore than from shore to ship. The advisers of Mr. Lloyd George at the Board of Trade are now "considering the matter," and so probably something in the direction indicated may be done between now and the Resurrection.

The Mr. Justice William Pickford who has been appointed to the Bench looks more delightful on a picture postcard than Lord Justice Cozens-Hardy, M.R., who should strictly limit official authority to reproduce his unique smile to the comic papers. What a good thing it is that the new Master of the Rolls is not a criminal Court judge. With him on the Bench, and Carson, K.C., "for the Crown," what prisoner would not plead guilty?

Who are the Chester Justices? The other day, Henry Brown, retired Army sergeant, was charged with ill-treating a cat. It was stated that Brown was heard beating the cat, and when remonstrated with, opened his door, swore, and threw the cat into the street. Inspector Hustwayte, R.S.P.C.A., said the cat was brought to his house in a dying condition. Both eyeballs were burst, and blood was running down the cat's face. Its right paw and its right shoulder were broken, and it appeared to have been terribly battered and knocked about. It had to be put out of its misery, and he was instructed to ask for a heavy penalty. Defendant went into the box and said that the cat knocked his clock off the mantelpiece. He kicked it, and then walked downstairs to let it out. The Bench imposed a fine of 5s. and costs, and allowed Brown 24 hours to find the money. Kind-hearted justices! What a lucky thing for Henry Brown that he isn't a poacher! Otherwise the justices would have thought more about the "cat."

Let us look at another case. At Lutterworth the other day a labourer named Ernest Pike was charged with poaching on October 12, 1901—five years ago. He denied being the man wanted, and said he had been earning an honest living for the last five years, although he admitted having a bad character before. He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and ordered to find two sureties of £5, and enter into a surety of £10 himself, to be of good behaviour for a year; in default, a further six months' imprisonment. If Ernest Pike had only maltreated a poor cat!

One of the difficulties a newspaper desiring to serve the public, and turn a more or less honest penny for its proprietor, has to contend with, is the existence of the legal tout and scoundrel who blackmails it with the aid and encouragement of the present libel law. Only the other day an action was brought against the *Glasgow Citizen* for £8,000 damages, in which it was proved by the defence that the plaintiff conspired with other persons to send the libellous telegrams to the newspaper named. The action failed, as, ethically, it should have done; but it might just as easily have succeeded. Supposing the defendants had not been able to prove the conspiracy to the satisfaction of the jury, what then? It would have been swindled out of damages. Newspapers compromise libel actions more often than they fight them; and it might well have happened in the case of a weaker journal that this iniquitous action would have been compromised also. The duty of the *Glasgow Citizen* now appears to be to turn the tables on the plaintiff.

Judging by the headlines in some of the papers, St. Paul's is again in danger, the South-west tower being in an "unsafe condition." We make no secret of the fact that we do not want the south-west tower to drop on our hat, and if there is anything the matter with it we hope it will be put right before we pass that way. But why, pray, are the Northcliffe journals always trotting out this sensation? If the south-west tower were about to drop on Carmelite House this journalistic scream would be more easily understood. But Carmelite House is several yards away, and at the worst there is no reason to suppose that it would be touched even by a bit of flying mortar. Meanwhile, the south-west tower is where it always has been, and until the experts who have been studying the matter have issued their report Lord Northcliffe should give instructions that the scare shall have a rest.

With reference to our recent disparagement of the British hen, the editor of *Feathered Life* assures us that "there is no finer layer extant than the British utility fowl, if she is only given a fair chance." Our feathered confrere is a little oracular on the subject when he proceeds to say "the fault lies not with the hen, but with the poor encouragement given to poultry keepers in this country." We understand that an endeavour is being made to secure the marking of all foreign eggs, thus securing to the home consumer a better opportunity than he at present possesses of distinguishing between the late Mr. Dan Leno's scientific classification of "new laid eggs," "fresh eggs," and "eggs." Should the measure come before Parliament, there will doubtless be a good deal of cackling over it.

A correspondent draws our attention to a recent controversy about the liquefaction of the blood of Saint Januarius. This liquefaction is said to take place miraculously at irregular intervals: "it is sometimes total, sometimes partial; sometimes bubbling, sometimes dense; sometimes making the blood darker in colour, sometimes making it clear as amber. Sometimes it is diminished, sometimes increased in volume and weight." Some have tried to discredit the occur-

rence by placing a red substance in a bottle and liquefying it by holding it near a candle. But they could not reproduce all the conditions alleged in the case of the saint's blood. It is not for us to either affirm or deny the miracle, but we are unable to recognise its utility. When the blood fails to liquefy the peasants of Naples are terror-stricken. Once it refused to liquefy during the occupation of the town by Bonaparte, and grave disorders were feared. Bonaparte threatened to burn the cathedral and hang the priests. The blood then promptly liquefied.

According to the story, "Spooks, the Station House, Hampton," will now find P.C. 265 T. Between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. recently, he was on duty at Hampton Court Palace. Darksome was the night. The silver moon was hidden from mortal eyes. Suddenly P.C. 265 T heard a sound as of the rustling of silk dresses. He peered into the darkness, and then beheld a group of ladies escorted by two gentlemen in evening dress. Thinking they were residents in the Palace returning from a party, he opened the gates for them. Instead of entering, they turned away, and formed into a kind of funeral procession. The next instant they had vanished like the baseless fabric of a vision, and left not a wrack behind. A few days later, P.C. 265 T heard of the death of a friend, and he believes that the procession was vouchsafed unto him as a warning. No doubt it was; and the way we interpret it is, "Never go to sleep on your beat."

When he says that a survey of contemporary society suggests that "Jesus Christ might just as well have stopped in heaven," is not Father Bernard Vaughan falling into the common mistake of proving just a little too much? If the *Freethinker* promulgated such a statement it would be regarded as blasphemous.

Here is an extract for a letter we have just received from Johannesburg, dated 10th February:—

At the present time thousands are out of employment, and there seems poor chance of things improving. Even if the Het Volk and Nationalists get returned, it will take some time to mend matters. Some say there will be war again before five years are over. If they fix up the mine magnates, perhaps it would be as well, as it is only the foreigners who are doing well here. The British section are starving.

The letter comes from a man who went through the war, and was with Colonel Plumer at Tuli, and also in the siege of Mafeking with Baden Powell.

We have previously expressed our doubts about the vitality of Lord Newton's House of Lords Reform Bill. Now Mr. Swift MacNeill, M.P., the swiftest MacNeill ever known, says the Bill attacks the King's Prerogative, and will have to be withdrawn unless the consent of the King is secured for its provisions. "It is hardly likely," says this able constitutional lawyer and charming man, "that the consent of the Crown will be given to any amateur measure for the Reform of the House of Lords pending the production of a scheme formulated by the responsible ministers of the King for that object." But, surely, Mr. MacNeill is too learned in this matter. The King's prerogative does not extend so far as to prevent anybody from humbly asking him to vary it! Let us see the Bill. If it provides for the creation of life peers, there are one or two members of the House of Commons whom we propose to include in a compulsory section.

We referred last week to the present one-man character of the "Boards" of Trade, Local Government, and Agriculture, and asked what would be said by the presidents about one-man companies. We now have another illustration of the cant of some of our recent legislation. Section 1 of the Street Betting Act, which does not anywhere mention horse-racing, makes it an

offence for persons to loiter in, or frequent, any public street for the purpose of betting or "wagering." Now it is notorious that every afternoon and early evening Throgmorton Street is crowded by Stock Exchange speculators and others—constituting what is known in the City as "The Street Market." The majority of these gentlemen are admittedly engaged in purely gambling transactions, buying and selling options for the "put" and "call" in stocks and shares. A "put" is the right to sell something, whether you have it or not, at a given price, whilst the "call" is the right to purchase it, whether you want it or not, at the option price. In other words, you wager upon the rise or fall of the stock, exercising your opinion only if the market price shows you a profit. We cannot for the life of us see any difference between wagering on the rise or fall of a share and wagering upon the rise or fall of a steeplechase horse. The Home Secretary, however, thinks differently. But then he is—the Home Secretary.

What a farce the discussion on Sunday Closing was! And what a scandal that the Government should have allowed a highly-contentious Irish Railway Bill to be put down in front of it, with the result that it was ten o'clock before the resolution was reached. Although resolutely opposed to all great-great-grandmotherly legislation of this character, we went to the House prepared to listen attentively to any arguments and statistics which could be produced in its favour. The speeches of the mover and seconder were, however, simply sermons—full of empty, vapid platitudes, and utterly devoid of the semblance of statesmanship. The only statistics adduced by the mover were those of the first five years after the introduction of Sunday Closing in Scotland, fifty years ago, showing a decrease of drunkenness for that period. Not a word was said as to the notorious facts of the present time; whilst Mr. Nicholls either did not know, or, if he did, assumed that others members did not, that during the five years in question the Spirit Tax was increased from 3s. 8d. to 8s. a gallon. There was a time, we believe, when the House of Commons had a paid fool; and although that post has long since become an honorary one, it now begins to look as though we were to have a professional evangelist in his place.

John Bull's Biscuits.

AWARD No. 221.

For saying that "it may well have been through the gentle influence" of the late Marchioness of Ripon, who was a Protestant, that Lord Ripon "was received into the Roman Church,"

THE MORNING LEADER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

AWARD No. 222.

For asserting that "no one hears bitter words about the Church of England from a Methodist platform,"

THE REV. W. SACKETT
(of South Cliff Wesleyan Church, Scarborough)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

AWARD No. 223.

For attributing his victory as a "Municipal Reformer" at the late County Council Election to "sticking to the truth,"

MR. JOHN HAYDEN, L.C.C. (for Brixton)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

AWARD No. 224.

For asking a policeman to lend him sixpence, violently assaulting him on his refusal, and pleading in extenuation that the officer had lent him money on a previous occasion,

MR. DANIEL DOVE
(of Anselm Road, Fulham)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

COLD STORAGE AND ROTTEN MEAT.

In which it is shown how rotten meat is sold to the white settler when he will buy it, and when he won't, to the native.

THE RHODESIA COLD STORAGE AND TRADING COMPANY.

The Rhodesia Cold Storage and Trading Company, Limited, was founded some years ago, primarily for the purpose of supplying the white inhabitants of Rhodesia with fresh meat. No one who has lived in many of the British Colonies will need to be told of the great service to the whites conferred by cold storage. In the tropical colonies it is almost impossible to get native meat that is eatable, and in some of the other colonies, for one reason and another, toothsome meat is unobtainable. Consequently, when a Cold Storage Company commences operations, whether it be on the West or the South Coast of Africa, in the West Indies, or elsewhere, it is eagerly welcomed by those who recall the joys of dining in the old country. And so when the first Cold Storage Company was formed in South Africa it was looked upon as a great boon, and it did such a roaring business that others were quickly started, encouraged, no doubt, by the abnormal demands of war-time. Among these latter ventures was the Rhodesia Cold Storage and Trading Company, Limited, a concern formed to supply Rhodesia with fresh meat, and which took over the Beira Cold Storage Company. But, of course, the service rendered to small and distant communities by Cold Storage Companies pre-supposes sweet meat. If by any means the meat has ceased to be sweet, is tainted when bought by the company, or becomes tainted afterwards whilst in its possession, obviously the company might do great disservice to the community rather than service, if it tried to palm off this meat as good meat. It may well be that for one reason or another, for some perfectly good reason, meat of good quality when originally bought has become tainted, but when this happens one would suppose that the Cold Storage Company would face its loss and get rid of the stuff as quickly as may be. This, however, is not the course that appears to commend itself to the Rhodesia Cold Storage and Trading Company, Limited.

At the end of 1903 this company was supplying, among other places, Umtali, and great complaints were made as to the character of the meat sold. It was said to be rotten. Among those who complained most loudly and persistently was Dr. Craven, who was surgeon to the Beira and Mashonaland Railway Company. Dr. Craven went so far as to caution the railway employees not to eat this meat, and he was not alone in his description of it as unfit for human food. The Umtali butchers who got the meat from the Rhodesia Cold Storage and Trading Company endorsed Dr. Craven's opinion of it, and finding their protests disregarded, told the company they would have no more of it. Things got to such a pass that the official of the company responsible for the district wrote to the general manager at Salisbury to say that it was useless for him to send any more of such meat, as nothing could be done with it, and he stated that with reference to a consignment of "fores"—by which we understand fore-quarters is meant—he had to treat it as simply waste. This announcement greatly scandalised his employers. Instead of regretting, as one would suppose they would regret, that rotten meat had been distributed among their customers in lieu of sound, they blamed their representative for wasting it. Note what the general manager says in his reply under date December 19th, which is before us:—

"We have your favours of the 12th and 15th inst. With regard to fores it is unfortunate that indifferent meat was sent, but we hope that you will make the best of it. If you

are satisfied that they are not suitable for European trade you should, in consultation with Mr. Harvey (the local manager of the Company) see if you cannot have them sold as native boys' meat to some of the Penhalonga Mines. We have been supplying the Globe and Phoenix with doubtful meat for their boys for some time.

"It is a pity that you should think it necessary to ask for 'direct sanction' for such a course. General success of the business should be your incentive, and we hope you will work amicably with Mr. Harvey, having this object in view."

This is really a gem. No regret at the white settlers being supplied with rotten meat, only anger at the rotten meat being wasted. If it could not be sold to the white residents, why was it not used as "native boys' meat"? Surely rotten meat is good enough for "niggers"? Moreover, the representative must have known that the company were in the habit of supplying rotten—we beg pardon, doubtful—meat for the boys at the Globe and Phoenix mines. But this representative, who had not been long enough out from England to enable him to harmonise his views upon duty with those of the management of the Rhodesia Cold Storage and Trading Company, did not accept the rebuke without protest. He pointed out that not only would the white residents not buy rotten meat, but the butchers would not sell it, and did not hesitate to add that he had no inclination to press them to do so. Upon this he received an answer under date December 31st, from which we take the following:—

"We have pointed out clearly that if we cannot get the local butchers to vend our meat fairly, we shall do it ourselves, which will probably be bad for the butchers. It therefore rests with them.

"We do not propose to take any notice of the statements attributed to Dr. Craven. If the butchers sell doubtful meat to the public as the sound article there is some justification in Dr. Craven's strictures. . . . We have established ourselves in Umtali to stay, and these preliminary troubles will not affect us. . . . You should not let the butchers have any more doubtful fores, but get rid of them elsewhere, say to Macequece. If the public try our hinds all prejudice will be removed."

If we are to accept this statement literally, it would seem that the practice of the Rhodesia Cold Storage and Trading Company, Limited, was—so far as the white folk were concerned—to sell rotten "fores," but sound "hinds." The rotten fores they thought it desirable to dispose of to the natives. Perhaps we should explain that in engaging native "boys" for the mines it is stipulated that they shall have meat once a week. They get 2½lbs. of meat a day, but in some cases the meat is a bonus, and in some a part of the contract, and the sort of stuff provided is illustrated by the transaction we have described above. Here we have the admission of the Rhodesia Cold Storage and Trading Company that it was not merely an occasional incident of their business to supply the native labourers at the mines with rotten meat, but that they had actually entered into a contract with the Globe and Phoenix Company for the supply of "doubtful" meat to their boys. It would be interesting to have the explanation of the Globe and Phoenix Company as to this peculiar arrangement. We have heard a good deal from time to time about the villainous spirits sold to the Kaffir in the Transvaal, and elsewhere, and now we have evidence of equally villainous meat being deliberately provided for his consumption. It seems a very scandalous condition of affairs, and we should like to know if the directors on this side approve the sort of thing described above.

IN THE CITY.

THE IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE FREEZING-OUT PROCESS.

The apathy of the British public with respect to this gigantic Trust, with its capital of £18,000,000, is curious. When, a few months ago, a Radical philanthropist started a Soap Trust there was an immediate outcry that quickly killed the thing. The guile of the serpent was wanting. The Soap Trust resorted to short measure with brutal candour, and there is a limit to John Bull's complaisance. The Tobacco Trust people were wiser in their generation. They could plead justification for the promotion of the Trust. They were only defending their own against the greed of the Yankee. In due course the two wolves came to terms. They called a draw, and effected a joint combine more powerful than ever. The Yankee contriver was given a seat on the English board, and Yankee methods were the result. Before then the Trust had obtained control of the largest and most powerful Company of multiple tobacco-conists, owning some 200 shops in all parts of the country. This was a great stroke. It meant the prominent show of all Trust goods to the exclusion of independent manufacturers. It also meant the boycotting by these powerful tobacco-conists of all new lines of independent firms.

Trust magnates are not satisfied with doing well themselves; their rivals must be wiped off the face of the earth. The freezing-out process is the worst form of tyranny. In America, if a tobacco-conist offends the Trust by not giving their goods the most prominent show, then a shop is opened on each side of him, until he is frozen out. In England, it is not yet the tobacco-conist's turn (though his profits have been curtailed in many of the best selling lines); that will come later; just now he is being tempted by bonuses.

The independent manufacturers are the first victims. The Trust, with an annual profit of about two millions, can well spare some of it to crush rivals out of existence. In 1901 numerous tobacco manufacturers carried on business all over the country, one or more existing in each of the large towns. These were generally old-established businesses, supplying the local needs in loose tobaccos and roll. In the main they were spinners, that is, manufacturers of the tobaccos known as Irish roll and pigtail. For a time, at any rate, the combine could afford to lose money on these two articles, and their first act was to sell them at less than actual cost price. "Live and let live" is not a motto beloved by Trusts, they prefer "Might is right," and no feelings of sentiment are allowed to intrude.

The move killed those who had manufactured roll and pigtail only. Old-established firms, which for generations had descended from father to son, had to give up manufacturing, and become middlemen. Many hung on till ruin stared them in the face, and having lost their all, have themselves become workmen. One manufacturer endeavoured to form a second combine, but without success. He is now a clerk, glad to earn a few pounds a week by serving the Trust he opposed.

The present year started with 429 licensed tobacco manufacturers in Great Britain and Ireland, and one must go back 30 years to find a fewer number than this. Up to 1901 (the birth of the Trust) the number of tobacco manufacturers taking out licences had steadily increased. At the present rate of reduction, a few years will witness the entire extinction of independent manufacturers. A decrease of 72 manufacturers in five years looks bad enough, but these figures do not fully show the gradual process of extinction. There are a number of manufacturers who are both spinners of roll and cutters of tobacco. Many of these have oiled and stored their spinning machinery, but are doing a little cutting of the better grades, and so take out a licence. But the end is not far distant for them. Certain kinds of cut tobaccos are now also being sold at, or under, cost, and a strong effort is being made by the Trust to capture the 3d. and 2d. cigar trade. The penny packets of cigarettes (an enormous trade) they already practically monopolise.

Many tobacco-conists, alive to the fate in store for them, whilst stocking Trust goods do not show them in their windows, but only sell them when asked for. The Combine, however, send numerous window dressers all over the country, persuading tobacco-conists to have their windows

dressed by them. Many of the weaker tobacco-conists consent, and, of course, their windows only show Trust goods, to the exclusion of all others.

The effect of the Trust upon other tobacco companies is seen in the following list, which is that of all the tobacco companies quoted on the Stock Exchange other than the Trust:—

		£	s.	d.
A. Baker and Co.,	£1 paid shares price	...	0	14 0
Cope Bros. and Co.,	£5	...	1	17 6
R. and J. Hill,	£1	...	0	10 0
Hunter Wiltshire and Co.,	£5	...	4	0 0
B. Morris and Son,	£3 5s.	...	3	0 0
Singleton and Cole,	£1	...	1	0 6

There is only one outside tobacco firm whose shares stand at par, and this is a firm who are principally distributors for the Imperial and others. This does not appear as if the outside manufacturers had been stimulated in their efforts by the success of the Combine. Nor does the fact that each year up to the formation of the Trust the number of manufacturers in this country steadily increased, but, since then have just as steadily decreased. Since the creation of the Trust, old-established firms such as Harvey and Davy, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Robinson and Barnsdale, Nottingham; Aviss Bros., Coventry—employing between them upwards of 1,000 workpeople—have given up business. The first-named firm had been established considerably over a century.

THE JUNIOR ARMY AND NAVY STORES.

The sharp controversy aroused by our criticisms of the management of these Stores has resulted in the resignation of the chairman, Major-General Hale Wortham, and another director. These are steps in the right direction. General Wortham is succeeded by Colonel Wray, who has a substantial interest in the Stores, and as chairman is likely to be much more than a mere figurehead.

But the change in the chairmanship must be followed by other changes if the Stores are to be put on a sound footing. We have reason to believe that Captain Burnett has been, or is about to be, informed that he must choose between his position as wine buyer at £600 a year, and director at £250. He must give up one or the other. Another step in the right direction.

There remain the managing director and the manager. We hope that the reforming shareholders, represented by Major-General Sir George French and Vice-Admiral Orford Churchill, will put pressure upon the Board to make changes here. Where is the need for a managing director at £2,000 per annum and a manager at £1,000? Surely with a competent Board one of these officials might be dispensed with? The departmental managers are highly competent men, and a single chief over them is all that is wanted. It is well known that they do not work harmoniously with Mr. Clench and Mr. Bathurst. They are practical men brought up to the business, whereas Mr. Clench was an accountant before, as his father's son, he went to the Stores, and Mr. Bathurst was the secretary. We have nothing to say against either gentleman in his personal capacity, but they are not the men for the places they hold. We urge the appointment of a single practical business man to be the medium between the departments and the Board. It ought to be possible to save from £1,500 to £2,000 per annum by this one change, whilst adding greatly to the efficiency of the management.

THE MAZAWATTEE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Replying to a correspondent, in last week's issue we made some reference to the Mazawattee Tea Company and shares. We understand that this company was placed in a somewhat invidious position, especially in reference to the Trade by the policy pursued by the late Board of opening retail shops. This was started whilst some of the chief directors were away, and some excellent paying departments were closed down for the purpose of pursuing this very unremunerative course. We understand, too, that the actual quality of the tea was depreciated in order that these shops might be opened. But now all that has been altered, and from all accounts the company is recovering much of its lost ground. There is no doubt that the business is a sound one, and so soon as the effects of the old policy are removed it ought to regain its pristine prosperity.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON.

The progress of this wonderful Company continues to excite the envy, admiration, and astonishment of the world of insurance. The assets of the Company, in both branches, as shown in the balance-sheet for 1906, just issued, are £63,887,008, being an increase of £4,422,632 over those of 1905. The reversionary bonus at the rate of £1 10s. per

HOW to INCREASE your INCOME

STRIKING SUCCESS!

Write at Once for Pamphlet (post free on mentioning this paper.)

The City and Westminster Exchange, Ltd.

Stock and Share Dealers,

Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

Telephone Nos. 867 Westminster, and 7765 Gerrard.

Telegraphic Address, "Stockwork," London.

cent. on the original sums assured added to all classes of participating policies in the ordinary branch issued since 1876, which has been paid for the last ten years, is for this year increased to £1 12s. per cent.

The Westinghouse Company, of Pittsburg, is making a big addition to its plant, and boasts an output of the value of £5,000,000 last year. Excellent—but poor consolation for shareholders in the neglected British Westinghouse.

The rise in Great Cobar shares is being well stage-managed. The public issue last year was a big frost, and the shares were left in the hands of the underwriters, so that manipulation was easy.

It is stated that a daily profit of £1,000 per day is being secured. The influence of the enormous share capital of £850,000, plus £750,000 debentures, will be felt when the metal relapses, especially if in the meantime the eyes of the mines are picked.

The latest news from the El Oro confirms all that we said with regard to this property. If the new sulphide strike develops in accord with present indications, another Esperanza will have been discovered. Mexico of El Oro show well; a dividend should be paid this year.

The Dunlop balance-sheet may be expected immediately. Recent strong buying of the Deferred shares at 25s. suggests the market's belief that a dividend will be possible upon this issue.

There is a bear squeeze in progress in Darracq, which we should not advise on merits at present price. The Company's capital is £800,000! In other Motor shares interest is subsiding; Vedrienes are practically unsaleable.

The Ooregum, which has been existing on a hand-to-mouth basis for years, may have reached a crisis, for the ore reserves a year ago would only have been sufficient to keep the battery running for twelve months.

The once great Westralian mine, the Great Fingall, is in a very unpleasant position. Ore reserves show 30s. 2d. per share, but when barren development work is allowed for not more than 12s. 2d. will be available for distribution.

Mr. E. L. Sidney has ceased to be managing director of Spiers and Pond, Limited. He is succeeded by Mr. H. W. Stephens, who has been associated with the hotel section of the company's business.

NEW ISSUE.

Applications are invited for an issue of £200,000 five per cent. debentures of the Buenos Ayres Midland Railway Company at the price of £93 10s. per cent. The debentures are to be issued in £100, £50, and £20 each, and form part of a total authorised issue of £2,000,000. They are a first charge upon the company's entire undertaking. The line is at present under construction, and the territory it will serve is already well settled. The line is to be handed over in complete working order on January 1st, 1910.

De Dia-Bouton (1907), Limited, invite subscriptions for 185,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each. For particulars see page 2 of cover.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

"ENQUIRER" (Hackney) and "ENID" (Liverpool).—We do not answer anonymous letters.

FARROW'S BANK.—W. J. T. (Croydon).—It appears to be doing well.

VARIOUS COMPANIES.—"TRUST" (Southwick).—1. You must wait the report of the Official Receiver.

HOUSE PURCHASE COMPANY.—AGENT (Dublin).—We know of no sufficient reason why you should not do so.

MOTOR MANUFACTURING COMPANY.—W. S. (Birmingham).—We are obliged by your letter and enclosure. We have no doubt you are right as to the object of L. Allen and Co.

OTHER CO-OPERATION MONEY SOCIETY.—SECRETARY, OTHER (Cardiff).—We thank you for your courteous letter, with its enclosure, and we will take advantage of your invitation upon occasion.

MOTOR SHARES.—BURTON (Burton-on-Trent).—You have selected the best of the motor bus companies, but the outlook, even for this company, at the present time is very doubtful, and our advice is to see your holding whilst you can do so at a profit.

THE CANADIAN COPPER AND SULPHUR COMPANY, LIMITED.—A. H. B. —We cannot assist you. No doubt the company is defunct.

CALICO PRINTERS' ASSOCIATION.—O. T. (New Cross).—We think the change has a good deal to recommend it.

THREE SHARES.—B. L. C. (Holloway Road).—We should hold for the present.

NATIONAL BENEFIT TRUST.—A. H. B. (Acex Green).—Let us know what you would take for the Bond.

PURCHASE OF SHARES.—J. F. (Belgravia).—There is nothing to prevent your buying shares in Lyons, or any other company for which you have a fancy. Lyons would give you the yield you name.

THE KAFFRAGALLA RUBBER COMPANY.—BULLITE (Dundee).—We have none to give you.

JOINT STOCK BANK.—SECURITY (Hounslow).—We cannot give you the name of one joint stock bank as safer than another. All the leading Joint Stock Banks are perfectly safe. The Bank of England would not accept a deposit of the kind. Our advice to you is to put the money at deposit with the Birkbeck Bank, where you may keep it in absolute confidence that it will be safe, and you will get 2½ per cent. interest, or, if you make it a drawing account, which would enable you to draw out a few pounds when you wanted them, they would give you 3 per cent. on balance.

PREMIUM BONDS.—J. H. A. (Llandudno).—Have nothing to do with the Bonds or the people who are pushing them.

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.—ANXIOUS (Tyston).—We cannot advise you to put more money into this concern. The likelihood of improvement in its position is too doubtful.

STANDING OF COMPANY.—W. W. (Brighton).—Our advice to you is to buy through the Stock Exchange if you want shares, but not to buy American Mining shares, or, indeed, mining shares of any kind.

TWO SHARES.—J. H. (Hull).—Both shares represent sound investments, and the yield at present quotation, and on the basis of last year's dividend, is exceptionally high. We do not know that we can say more.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—W. G. S. (Goodmayes).—We note that you have a Bond for £400 ballot section, five years' paid, £53, which you wish to sell. Will any of our readers make an offer?

SAFE INVESTMENT.—SHACKS (Oaderton-Barry).—We advise you not to have any dealings with the people whose letter you enclose. With respect to your power to invest the £700 in other than trustee securities, we cannot express an opinion without fuller particulars than you send us. Anyway, upon such a matter we should advise you to consult your solicitor.

COAL COMPANY.—PLATER (Workop).—We should hold your coal shares for the present.

THE ENDOWMENT SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE CORPORATION.—A. W. (Bristol).—We will make some inquiries, and give you the answer if possible next week.

BRITISH HOMES INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—INVESTOR (Leyton).—We think your friend might proceed without apprehension.

BRITISH WIDOWS' ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—WIDOWER (Hornsey).—We cannot recommend you to do so.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM.—A. E. E. (Harlesden).—We do not recommend the purchase.

CO-OPERATIVE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY.—H. A. B. (Tunbridge Wells).—We know nothing against the society.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES SYNDICATE.—C. E. J. (Belvedere).—The people are swindlers. A. J. B. (Birmingham).—See our answer to C. E. J.

G. BEER, LIMITED.—A CONSTANT READER (Manchester).—We should cut the loss.

SALVATION ARMY ASSURANCE.—E. E. (Clapton).—We cannot go into all the questions as to this society to which you invite our attention. We must content ourselves with saying that, as compared with other insurance companies, it is not a desirable company in which to insure.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—WEEKLY READER (Manchester).—We have no doubt that under the new scheme, as the old one, the progress of this well-known and well-managed institution will be continuous.

PLATE AND MORTGAGE.—GLASGOW.—We are looking into the matter which your letter, with its enclosures, refers to.

THE WORKERS' ACCIDENT COMPENSATION COMPANY.—T. W. W. (Stoke Newington).—We have not sufficient information respecting this new society to warrant us in advising you upon the subject.

GAS AND WATER SHARES.—D. E. (Hackney Rd.).—We fear it would be only possible to dispose of them by private negotiation. They are not quoted on the Stock Exchange.

HOMESTEADS, LTD.—O. D. L. (London).—This is a sound, well-managed, and honest concern, and is all the sounder for being practically a one-man company. Remember that the principal Government "Boards" are now admittedly run in the same manner.

MARGINAL INVESTMENTS.—H. W. S. (Legrave).—We do not advise holding any of the securities you have open, and we have frequently advised readers against operating on this plan.

L. AND P. EXCHANGE.—O. F. W. (Bathaston).—The date was about mid-December.

LONDON DEEPS (X. Y. Z.).—The shares are forfeited under the provisions of the Articles of Association, and the matter has nothing to do with the Courts.

W. G. (Kilburn).—See previous answer.

ARNOLD AND BUTLER.—F. O. B. (Bridlington) sends us a cutting from the "Bristol Evening Times," containing the familiar puff of Arnold and Butler, of Room 29a, 194, Holborn, and wants to know why there is no indication that the article is a paid for advertisement. We presume it is because Messrs. Arnold and Butler stipulate that that important fact should be suppressed.

CANTON SOAP AND WEST DRATTON MILLBOARD.—J. R. S. (Blackford).—We believe they are both doing well.

BRITISH HOMES ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—Constant Reader (Carlisle).—You need have no fear of not being fairly dealt with if you purchase a house by means of this Corporation.

BUILDING SOCIETY SCHEME.—Edgley (Dulwich).—We cannot advise you to accept the offer that has been made to you.

JUNIOR ARMY AND NAVY STORES.—AN OLD SHAREHOLDER (Oadegan Gardens).—We thank you for your appreciative reference to the action of JOHN BULL in connection with the Stores. Our single object has been to rouse the shareholders to the need for insisting upon more competent management. We are in entire agreement with you as to the wisdom of supporting Major-General Sir George French and Vice-Admiral Orford Churchill in their efforts to bring about the needed changes.

EGYPTIAN GOLD MINE.—F. J. W.—Sorry you followed the advice of the City Editor of the *Morning Leader* in this matter, but we are none of us infallible. Sell, and cut the loss.

GODSTONE AND DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.—ROMULUS (Brixton).—None, as we think.

KLEESBORO PROPS.—J. J. (Salisbury).—No; neither of the one nor the other. As to the other two, sell.

THE BRITISH EQUITABLE BOND AND MORTGAGE CORPORATION.—H. R. (Liscard).—We think it very unlikely that the company will be in existence "21 years hence." We cannot advise you "to invest, say from £6 to £9 per annum" in this, or any similar concern.

NATIONAL DEPOSIT FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—ANDREWS (Birmingham).—We have nothing to say against the Society, which, as you know, has been doing business for many years, but, speaking generally, ladies "interested in Church work" would be well advised in declining to recommend societies or companies to the working people amongst whom they visit as good investments. It is better to avoid recommendations of concerns about which they are necessarily ignorant.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—L. M. F. (Hull).—Have nothing to do with the people you name. A. J. B. (Birmingham).—They are good enough of their class, but you should deal with a member of the Stock Exchange.

DODGER (Liverpool).—Have nothing to do with person you name.

PAID TO THE PEOPLE.

2½ per cent. on Daily Current Account Balances.
4 per cent. to 6 per cent. on Deposits.
5 per cent. on Thrift Accounts (up to £10).
6 per cent. Dividend on £1 Shares.

FARROW'S BANK, Ltd. (The People's Bank),
25, NEW BRIDGE STREET, LUDGATE CIRCUS, LONDON, E.C.
And at Brighton, Birmingham, Croydon & Norwich.

SALE of FIVE PER CENT. FIRST DEBENTURES.

The List of applications will open on Monday, the 11th day of March, 1907, and will close on or before Wednesday, the 13th day of March, 1907.

The ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK (Limited),
(formerly the Bank of Tarapaca and Argentina, Limited),
and

The METROPOLITAN BANK (of ENGLAND and WALES)
(Limited),

are AUTHORIZED by the SOUTH AMERICAN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (Limited) (the Contractors) to RECEIVE APPLICATIONS for the purchase of

£600,000 FIVE PER CENT. FIRST DEBENTURES to BEARER
(Part of an authorised sum of £2,000,000)

of the
BUENOS AYRES MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY (Limited), which are OFFERED for SALE by the Contractors at the Price of £93 10s. per cent. The Redemption Price of the Debentures is £110 per cent. The Debentures can be purchased in Bonds of £100, £50, or £20 each, as required, and the price will be payable as follows:—

	£100 Debenture. per Debe ture.	£50 Debenture. per Debe ture.	£20 Debenture. per Debe ture.
On Application ...	£10 0	£5 0	£2 0
On acceptance of Application ...	15 0	7 10	3 0
On 22nd April, 1907 ...	20 0	10 0	4 0
On 22nd July, 1907 ...	25 0	12 10	5 0
On 22nd October, 1907 ...	28 10	14 5	6 10
	£93 10	£46 5	£18 10

Payment for Debentures may be made in France at 25.20; Reichsmark at 20.10; Gulden at 12.10; or Argentine Gold Dollars at 5.04 per £ sterling exchange respectively.

£200,000 Debentures are being reserved for public offer in France, Belgium, and Holland, at not less than the above issue price of £93 10s. per cent.

The Debentures will be issued in pursuance of Article 86 of the Articles of Association of the Buenos Ayres Midland Railway Company, Limited, and a resolution of that Company passed on the 30th day of January, 1907, and bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st July and 1st January in each year, the first payment falling due on the 1st July, 1907. Interest on the Debentures now offered will be paid upon the instalments from time to time paid up. Upon payment of the last instalment, interest will run upon the full nominal amount of the Debentures. The Debentures may be paid for in full upon application, in which case 3 per cent. interest will be allowed in respect of the amounts paid in advance until the due dates of the respective instalments.

The Debentures which are secured by a Trust-Deed constituting a first charge upon the undertaking of the Railway Company, are to be redeemed on or before the 1st January, 1956, at £110 per cent., and may be redeemed by the Company at its option on six months' notice at any time after the year 1910, at the price of £110 per cent. The amount payable on redemption of the Debentures to be £110 per cent. in any event.

The redemption of the Debentures will be provided for by annual payments by the Railway Company into a sinking fund in the hands of the Trustees, such payments commencing on the 1st January, 1910. The Debentures will be redeemed by annual drawings at £110 per cent., in which case one month's notice of redemption will be given by advertisement, or the sinking fund may be utilised in purchasing Debentures by tender or in the open market whenever they can be acquired at or below the redemption price of £110 per cent.

The £600,000 Debentures now offered for sale have been purchased by the South American Railway Construction Company, Limited (the Contractors), and will be deposited at the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, to be delivered to the purchasers against payment in full of the fixed price of £93 10s. per cent.

Application will be made to the Stock Exchanges at London, Liverpool, and Glasgow for a settlement in and official quotation of the Debentures now offered for sale.

A brokerage of 10s. per cent. will be paid to Brokers in respect of applications for Debentures accepted on forms bearing their names.

Prints of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Railway Company, the Trust Deed securing the Debentures, copies of the Contract and letters, and translations of the Concession and Law referred to within, can be seen at the Offices of the Solicitor to the Contractors, Mr. Cecil Adler, 19, Coleman Street, E.C., whilst the list remains open.

Where any application for Debentures is not accepted the amount paid by way of deposit will be returned in full, and where the amount of Debentures sold to any applicant is less than that applied for, the balance of the amount received in excess of the money payable as deposit will be applied towards the payment due on the acceptance of the application, any excess being returned to the applicant.

Default in payment of any part of the price of the Debentures when due will render the contract to purchase the Debentures liable to cancellation, and the amount previously paid to forfeiture, and any instalments in arrear will carry interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

Applications for the Debentures should be made on the accompanying form and sent to the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited (formerly the Bank of Tarapaca and Argentina, Limited), 97-8, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., or the Metropolitan Bank (of England and Wales), Limited, 60, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Particulars of Sale and Forms of Application can be obtained from the above-mentioned Bankers and from the Brokers—C. Birch Crisp and Co., 11, Angel Court, London, E.C.; Douglas Cairney, 135, Buchanan Street, and Stock Exchange, Glasgow.

Dated 6th March, 1907.

IN THE COURTS.

A FOOLISH CHANGE.

It is surprising what strange proposals commend themselves to some very learned men. The Lord Chancellor has brought in a Bill to reduce the number of Lord Justices in each court, with the consent of the Lord Chancellor, from three to two. If this can be done without prejudice to litigants it would be an excellent thing. At present there are only two Courts of Appeal, each court having three judges. Sometimes a judge is ill, and then it is only possible for the two Courts to sit by dislocating business elsewhere, by inducing the Lord Chancellor, or the Lord Chief Justice, or the President of the Divorce Court to fill the gap, when, of course, other courts suffer. If instead of having three judges to each Appeal Court, two sufficed, well, then, there would be three Courts of Appeal instead of two, and very

soon the long list of arrears would be sensibly reduced, if not wiped out. But these apparently simple remedies for serious shortcomings usually leave the reformer in a more serious position than they found him. The obvious objection to the Court of Appeal consisting of two judges only, is that when the two differ, then the appellant has to go to the House of Lords if he is to have any chance of reversing the decision of the lower court, so that his last position may well be worse than the first. The late Master of the Rolls told the House of Lords on Thursday that there was really no risk involved in the proposed change. He had sat in the Court of Appeal for ten years, and his experience satisfied him that the judges never disagreed. It seems that they are different to other judges, "inasmuch as the six judges are accustomed to sit together, and they meet every day in the common room." And then Lord Collins went on to relate his own experience of sitting in Court with ex-Lord Justice Sterling. "He (Lord Collins) did not remember more than two instances in which there had been a difference of opinion between members of the Court." As for Lord Justice Stirling, Lord Collins only differed from him once in the many years in which they sat together. That may be, but to say that the Lord Justices do not differ from each other is a very strange statement for an ex-Master of the Rolls to make. To go no farther back than the present year, and the experience of a single Court, in the two most important cases that have gone up from the Court of Appeal to the House of Lords the judgment of the majority of the Court has differed from that of the third judge, and in both cases the third judge's opinion was upheld by the House of Lords as against the ruling of his brother judges."

In supporting the Bill Lord Alverstone indulged in his usual reflections about the necessity for additions to the Bench. He does not believe that any serious saving of time could be got by re-arrangement of the circuits.

"It was possible if the House of Commons would face the grouping of certain counties for circuit purposes that a slight saving of time might be effected, equivalent perhaps to three or four weeks of the time of one judge, but no real relief to the congestion which they were discussing would be afforded by re-arrangement of circuits."

Contrast this with the experience of Lord Alverstone's immediate predecessor, Lord Russell of Killowen, on the circuit system. We take the following statement from Mr. O'Brien's life of that eminent judge. It relates to Lord Russell's experience upon his last circuit, just before his death:—

July 5, 1900.—The Chief Justice left London for the North Wales Circuit.

July 6.—The commission was opened at Newton. There was no business of any kind, and the judge received a pair of white gloves.

July 7.—Sunday.

July 8.—No court.

July 9.—At Dolgelly there was no business, and the judge was presented with a pair of white gloves.

July 10.—No court.

July 11 and 12.—Sat in court at Carnarvon.

July 13 and 14.—No court.

July 15.—Sunday.

July 16.—At Beaumaris—no business—judge had white gloves.

July 17.—No court.

July 18.—Sat in court at Ruthin for four hours and three-quarters.

July 19.—Sat in court for five hours.

July 20.—No court.

July 21.—Sat in court at Mold for about three hours.

July 22.—Sunday.

July 23.—No court.

July 24.—Sat in court at Chester.

July 25.—Sat in court until one o'clock, and returned to London.

We leave Lord Alverstone to reconcile his own statement about the circuits with the experience of the late Lord Russell.

His statement about the circuits was not perhaps the most extraordinary statement made by the Lord Chief Justice in his speech on Thursday. Immediately after Lord Loreburn's appointment to the Woolsack that learned judge sat for some days in the Court of Appeal. We think we are within the mark in saying that he did not sit more than half-a-dozen days all told, and this is the amusing way in which Lord Alverstone speaks of the effort.

"He (Lord Alverstone) bore witness to the extraordinary efforts made by the Lord Chancellor to carry on the work in the Court of Appeal. He liked the 'pluck,' to use the strong English word, he had shown, but it was too great a strain and he believed the noble and learned judge had done harm to himself by sitting in the Court of Appeal when he was new to other duties which in themselves were so heavy."

In other days—in the days of the three-bottle men—judges were made of tougher stuff. When at the Bar the present Lord Chancellor was never noted for his fondness for work, and since he has been Lord Chancellor a considerable portion of his time, we regret to say, has been passed in a sick room. But to say that the few days he sat in the Court of Appeal before the appointment of Lord Justice Fletcher Moulton undermined his health is surely to draw somewhat heavily upon the credulity of laymen.

PICTURESQUE LITTLE FREEHOLD COUNTRY HOUSE, every convenience, fitted bath-room; two acres. Price £200 cash, leaving £400 mortgage. Kent, 20 miles out; 1s. 6d. return fare, London.—Butlers, 10, Norfolk Street, Strand.

THE ALARMING INCREASE OF SOBRIETY.

BY A WHIG OF THE SCHOOL OF THEODORE HOOK.

At a moment when the entire country, if we listen to the moans of Radical organs, is meditating in a rapt abstraction as to how Board Schools can best stuff children's heads with useless knowledge, and is ready to enter even upon civil war because nobody can arrive at an exact definition of denominationalism, it may be timely to enter upon a brief enquiry as to how much further the Temperance Movement is going to march on its watery mission of teetotalising the Empire. Ominous signs of activity are to be seen. One leading daily has already devoted the space usually sacred to such subjects as "Scotch Ministers and their Wages," "The Eating of Charitable Institutions," and "Who Stole the Umbrella?" to disquisitions on ginger ale and Licensing Laws; and the police have been furnished with printed instructions which will enable them, with the help of photographs, and their insight, to see in the pale-faced citizen the secret indulger; and to compel all people cursed with hereditary red noses to go to church by the Underground railway.

It is not difficult to foretell some of the results of this tyranny if the police are allowed a free hand in deciding what is sobriety and what is insobriety, when either of the two are errant in public places. A member of the House of Commons will be labelled an Inebriate of the first class because he is seen walking to his Parliamentary duties with head bent with the weight of an Imperial Measure. A bishop will be docketed as an irreclaimable because he is seen performing his sacred duties disguised in "Lawn Sleeves" (a recipe for this episcopal cordial will be found in Swift). A cabman will next be had up because his reins are slack, and a motorist compelled to travel under thirty-five miles an hour for consuming too much oil. The drivers of our Metropolitan water-carts, sometimes active in rainy weather, will be committed because they are seen flushing the streets. Horses will be seized because they have the staggers, while the fate of mayors will be past imagining. Aldermen, however, will have to relinquish their noses; while the only course for county councillors

with red faces will be to whitewash them as soon as possible and never mind Strand Improvements.

Meanwhile the craze for sobriety, as is always the result of hysterical impulses misdirected by indecent zeal, has brought into being a greater nuisance than itself. Total Abstinence is seen approaching, but with a cigarette in her mouth. A grievance of the first order is immediately created. If it will soon be impossible for anyone to have a glass of wine in a public place for fear of an Act of Parliament or a policeman, it is already practically out of the question to enjoy one at a dinner party. No sooner is the wine set on the table than every one present draws out a cigarette. What chance has the kindly juice of Aquitanian grape of bestowing its blessings, when its bouquet is stifled by fumes of tobacco grown possibly on the haunted plains of Syria, but very often redolent of a less legendary level? Some of the baser kind do, it is true, drink claret while they smoke. But the lowest dungeon beneath the castle moat is the only proper place for these viveurs' since Fashion has denied them their ancestors' privilege of falling under the table. And so through this intemperate craving for narcotics at every minute—a craving which our divines and medical men should long ago have diagnosed as a disease—the noble art of drinking wine is becoming lost to the country. The art of beer-drinking is already an impossible feat, for brewers have ceased to brew it. And the net result of this state of things is that wit has taken flight from the dinner table, humour will be soon as extinct as fine manners, a solemn and fatuous sobriety casts a universal gloom, and England is slowly being sent into such a condition of stupid sleep as she has not enjoyed since the Royal Humane Society resuscitated the reader of the First Review, and authors lived in caves and ate each other.

That the country is being driven to this state in the face of the lessons drawn from its own social history can be shown without straining at the gnat or swallowing a bottle, and without searching for brilliant examples of a fading art further back than a century. A great churchman, who held the House of Lords enthralled for five hours by one of the greatest orations ever delivered in that assem-

"The Great Silversmiths Sale"

During
Building
Operations.

Finishes March 28th. New Extension opens April 3.

This Sale is Absolutely Unique in the History of Sales by reason of the HIGH-CLASS QUALITY OF ALL GOODS OFFERED. Visitors are respectfully invited to view the Goods and will not be solicited to purchase.

The Alexander Clark Manufacturing Company

Having acquired the adjoining premises, recently known as Mabey's Restaurant—a novel instance of a valuable City license being voluntarily relinquished—in order to prevent loss and damage during the necessary building operations, will offer for sale the whole of their enormous stock at

PRICES CONSIDERABLY BELOW THE ACTUAL COST OF PRODUCTION.

ABSOLUTE BARGAINS.

Solid Silver Welbeck Plate.
Tea and Coffee Sets.
Spoons and Forks.
Fish Eaters.
Cruets.
Flower Vases.

Silver Hair Brushes.
Clocks and Bronzes.
Dressing Bags.
Table Cutlery.
Diamonds and Pearls.
Jewellery.

Pendants.
Brooches.
Engagement Rings.
Watches and Chains.
Diamond Rings.
Links, Studs, Pins, &c.

PRICES LESS THAN COST OF PRODUCTION.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—

To prove this send for the final Sale Catalogue. Just Out.

THE ALEXANDER CLARK MANUFACTURING CO., 125 & 126, FENCHURCH STREET, E.C.

(Corner of Fen Court, nearly opposite Mincing Lane.)

VISIT OF INSPECTION INVITED.

NO SOLICITATION TO PURCHASE.

DRINK and ENJOY MAZAWATTEE TEA.

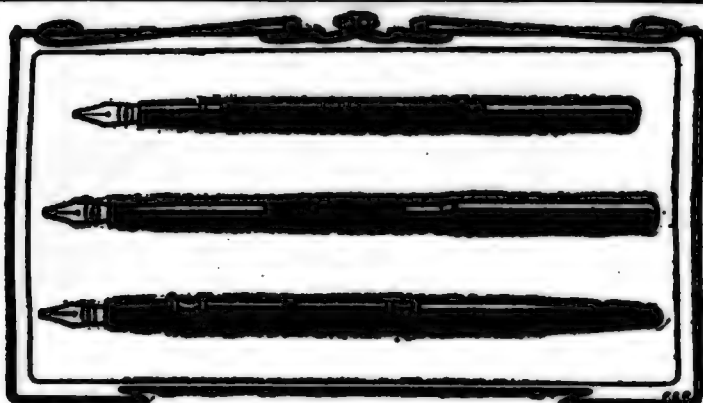
Pure, and Unadulterated,

Delicious to the Palate,

and

Unvarying in quality.

Sold only in Air-Tight Lead Packets and
Sealed Tins.



WATERMAN'S IDEAL Fountain Pen

Is a constant delight to its owner—and a real convenience. It writes easily, without spurring or blotting, and without the slightest hesitancy. Waterman's Ideal lasts for years, always in working order. It is mechanically perfect. The spoon-feed is the simplest feed extant, and also the most efficient. Simplicity has been the aim of the makers—for the less complications there are in the construction of a pen, the less chance there is of a breakdown. The simplicity of every part of Waterman's Ideal is a guarantee of its reliability—a surety for its constant, steady working.

Prices 10/6, 15/6, 17/6, 21/6, and upwards. In Silver and Gold for Presentation. Of Stationers and Jewellers. If any difficulty in obtaining these pens, write for name of nearest agent. Illustrated Catalogue, post free, from L. & C. HARDTMUTH, 12, Golden Lane, London, E.C. (New York—174, Broadway.)

Liverpool VICTORIA Legal FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

CHIEF OFFICE—ST. ANDREW STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Claims paid exceed..... £2,000,000

Invested Funds nearly..... £2,000,000

LIFE AND ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES AT POPULAR RATES. WORLD-WIDE POLICIES.

ARTHUR HENRI, Secretary.

Abolition of Barmaids. A PUBLIC MEETING

OF
BARMAIDS AND WOMEN ASSISTANTS

WILL BE HELD IN THE
HOLBORN TOWN HALL,

Gray's Inn Road, W.C.

On Thursday, March 14th, at 8 o'clock, to
Protest against the Proposed Legislation
intended to limit or abolish the
EMPLOYMENT OF BARMAIDS.

DOORS OPEN AT 2.30 P.M.

BYA GORN-BOOTH
SARAH DICKINSON
NETHER ROSE, R.L.

Joint Secretaries

18, Dackingham Street, Strand, W.C.

MONEY LENT PRIVATELY.

£10
TO
£5,000

For short or long periods, in town or country, on Note of Hand, Without Surety or Security. Repayments to suit clients' convenience. No inquiry fees. Strictest privacy. Interviews unnecessary. Cash sent by post. Bills discounted.

'Phone: 9713 Central.

CHARLES STEVENS & CO.,
12, Devonshire Chambers, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

bly (we do not refer to the Bishop of Hereford) once declared that he would sooner see England drunk than England enslaved. Lord Brougham drank two bottles of port every night after dinner. It is not upon record how many bottles he drank when he was re-writing the peroration to his defence of Queen Caroline fourteen times in a Fleet Street tavern, but he drank so much of the generous liquor mulled while he was advocating the great Reform Bill that his attitude of prayer at the end of his speech was mistaken by the uninitiated for one of procumbency. Pitt the Younger, who may be said to have ruled England from boyhood to death, was a profuse wine-drinker all his life. So was Fox, the Demosthenes of his age. Irreverence dubbed Sheridan "nose-painter," and that he attained to some proficiency in the art can be seen in Gitray's caricatures. Yet he wrote the most brilliant comedy of his time, married its most beautiful woman, and delivered what Burke declared to be its greatest speech. Lord Eldon sat on the woolsack almost as long as an ordinary-lived man can drink wine, and whether he excelled as a lawyer or a drinker is a moot point. To descend to times more modern, the lawyer who has been described as one of the greatest legal lights that ever adorned the Bench, and who described himself as "an eminent Christian man," was a well-known advocate of the bowl. Military records furnish countless supporters of this cause beset who need not be marshalled. It is enough to say that no statistics furnished by a designing Temperance will confute the fact that the greatest successes at the Bar, in the stricken field, and in the senate, have been won by disciples of the drinking cult. No debater of to-day will presume to compare his powers to those of Fox, who was a many-bottled man; and Pitt as a Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed in the port wine habit, stands safely from rivalry with that more modern minister of the science who asked "What are those dots?" when faced with the unusual vision of decimal points.

Plain speaking is a good thing in season; so is plain thinking. We are of opinion that plain drinking has also merits of its own, though it does not happen at the moment to be in fashion. So fixed, indeed, are we in this belief that were we asked by Radical reformers what good ever came out of a public-house we should be tempted to reply their own republicanism, and waiving all discussions as to whether bar-parlours are more conducive to rest than public libraries, ask them whether that crowd of earnest men and women who took the Bastille and laid the foundation of the liberty that France and we now enjoy did not swarm to that glorious undertaking from all the wineshops in Paris. It is notorious that they did; though it is no advocacy of intemperance that we have recalled the memory of those French endeavourers and of our own great men who, by similar means, equally served their country. They lived in an age when men were not afraid to drink wine and when, as long as they fought, pleaded, or spoke well, nobody cared whether their noses were red, white, or blue. This is the crucial point now, as every well-informed person knows. Indeed, everyone is so anxious not to be red that no one seems capable of being eminent.

Or light-hearted either! And this is where a national danger lies. It is appalling to see the serious faces in the streets. A smile is a rare sight, and signs not to be mistaken make it evident that through the alarming increase of sobriety dulness is to be the order of the day. The only course open to a reasonable man under the circumstances is to lay in a good store of promising vintages and an easy armchair and await till the gloom begins. Then when our ball-rooms present the spectacle of well dressed mummies circulating sadly, when inspiration is banished from our public stages, and our pulpits drowsily proclaim the glad tidings of sleep, the philosopher will be able to become as comfortably horizontal as possible, and wait for a merrier England and the disappearance of an absurd fad.

Amongst the most progressive jewellery businesses of recent years is that of the Alexander Clark Manufacturing Company, of 125 and 126, Fenchurch Street. Until the 28th of this month they are holding a sale of their entire stock, necessitated by a further extension of their premises, and our readers requiring jewellery or silver should not miss this opportunity.

John Bull Over-Seas.
HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR MARON COPY?

THE BEN TILLETT FUND.

On Wednesday evening of last week, Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P., presided at a private dinner at the House of Commons, at which a cheque for 50 guineas, being the total of the "JOHN BULL Fund," was presented to Mr. Tillett, who sails for Australia on the 30th inst.

A large number of members and other friends of Mr. Tillett were present. Messrs. Steadman, Will Thorne, O'Grady, Havelock Wilson, Stephen Walsh, and Pete Curran testified to Mr. Tillett's untiring work in the cause of Labour, whilst Mr. W. M. Thompson, editor of *Reynolds'*, also paid an eloquent tribute to the character of the invalid agitator.

An interesting feature of the evening was the announcement by Mr. Frank Gerald (the Secretary of the newly-formed Variety Artistes' Federation), that the members of the profession intended to mark their gratitude for Mr. Tillett's services in connection with the recent strike, by materially increasing the fund, and a similar announcement came from some of the Labour leaders, on behalf of their trade organisations.

We have the pleasure to acknowledge a joint contribution of £2 2s. from Miss Marie Kendall and Mr. Steve McCarthy.

Mr. Tillett will probably be away about six months, by which time it is hoped that he will be completely restored to health, in which case strenuous efforts will be made to find him a seat in the House.

FAITHFUL TO DEATH.

[Mr. Moor, the head steward of the "Berlin," had promised to take charge of a German boy, August Hirsch, from Harwich to the Hook. Their bodies were washed ashore, the child clasped in the man's arms—the latter battered by the angry seas.]

They say the breed is dying out,
The English heart grows cold,
The palsied hand lacks nerve to act,
The race is growing old.
Yet stand upon the sea-girt shore
And face the blinding spray;
What token brings the wave to thee?
What forms are borne thy way?

A stalwart form the breakers bear,
Crushed by the sea's caress—
A sailor, of the breed that ne'er
Left comrade in distress.

And in his arms, fast locked for aye,
In Death's last cold embrace;
The sleeping child of other clime
Has found a resting-place.

Oh! deed sublime of noblest worth!
Thy charge well-kept hast thou;
Before thy tomb, great hero cold,
In reverence I bow.

The steward Moor and Hirsch the boy,
As one shall ever dwell,
And English hearth and German home
Unite the tale to tell.

JOHN CRAIGHEAD.

ÆSOP UP-TO-DATE.

A Simpleton walking down the Strand, by assiduously calling at Certain Inns, Gradually got into a State of Glorious Intoxication.

Standing in the Centre of the Road, He executed a Song and Dance, hiccuping and staggering the while. He was Promptly arrested.

"Why," said he to the Policeman, "I saw a Man do This at a Music Hall, and everyone Laughed Heartily."

"Comin' Quietly?" asked the Policeman.

F. W. THOMAS.

[Through pressure on our space, "Mr. Dooley on a Broken Friendship" is unavoidably held over.—ED.]

TO COMMAND SUCCESS.

We hear a great deal about the strain of modern business life; of the fierce stress of competition; of the difficulty of "getting on."

"The race of life has become intense," Carlyle said in his day. "The runners are treading on each other's heels; woe be to him who stops to tie his shoestrings."

This is a business age—an age of commercialism. A part of our civilisation so important as that of Business demands a text-book or reference of its own; and, hitherto, nothing of this sort has been issued. The "Business Encyclopædia" fills a want that was becoming acute in the business world. It deals only with business, but it deals with this great subject fully and completely. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the practical business man that the "Business Encyclopædia" is absolutely necessary to him if he wishes to save time, temper, and money, and to make a success of his business life.

The Policy that Pays.

The policy that ensures success, whether to the employes or to the man who is in business for himself, is the policy of efficiency. Specialised business knowledge is the secret of business success. In the business world the man who knows all about business is the man who succeeds, in business. With the "Business Encyclopædia" at his hand, the most diffident man may act upon his own idea with confidence. It enables him to keep in line with new methods and new systems in business. It is equally indispensable to the young man who is determined to succeed, whether as Clerk, Cashier, Accountant, Tradesman, Commercial Traveller, Agent or Manager, Solicitor or Stockbroker, Capitalist, Financier, or Director of a Limited Company.

Four Opinions.

1. Messrs. J. S. FRY and SONS, Bristol:
"We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase this work."
2. Sir WILLIAM TRELOAR (the Lord Mayor):
"The 'Business Encyclopædia' and Legal Adviser is a work of considerable value and utility, especially to commercial men."
3. Sir THOMAS LIPTON:
"Most valuable to every business man."
4. The late Mr. WILLIAM WHITELEY:
"Of great assistance to every business man."

The Men who Succeed.

We have received hundreds of letters from prominent and successful business men all over the country, all speaking in enthusiastic terms of the practical utility of the "Business Encyclopædia." It follows that if this, work is found useful to them, that it will be useful—nay that it is indispensable to you.

Every article is a business article, over 10,000 points being indexed and dealt with. It will, therefore, be seen that every point can be turned up with the greatest facility.

We strongly advise all ambitious men to send for a handsome little book which the publishers will send post free to those of our readers who apply for it. It contains much valuable business information, and fac-similes of several useful business documents. It also explains all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it is delivered complete for a first payment of three shillings, the remainder to be paid by a few small monthly payments.

A FREE BOOK.

The CAXTON PUBLISHING COMPANY, CLUN HOUSE,
SURREY STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Please send me FREE OF CHARGE a copy of "THE PRACTICAL BOOK."

J.153.

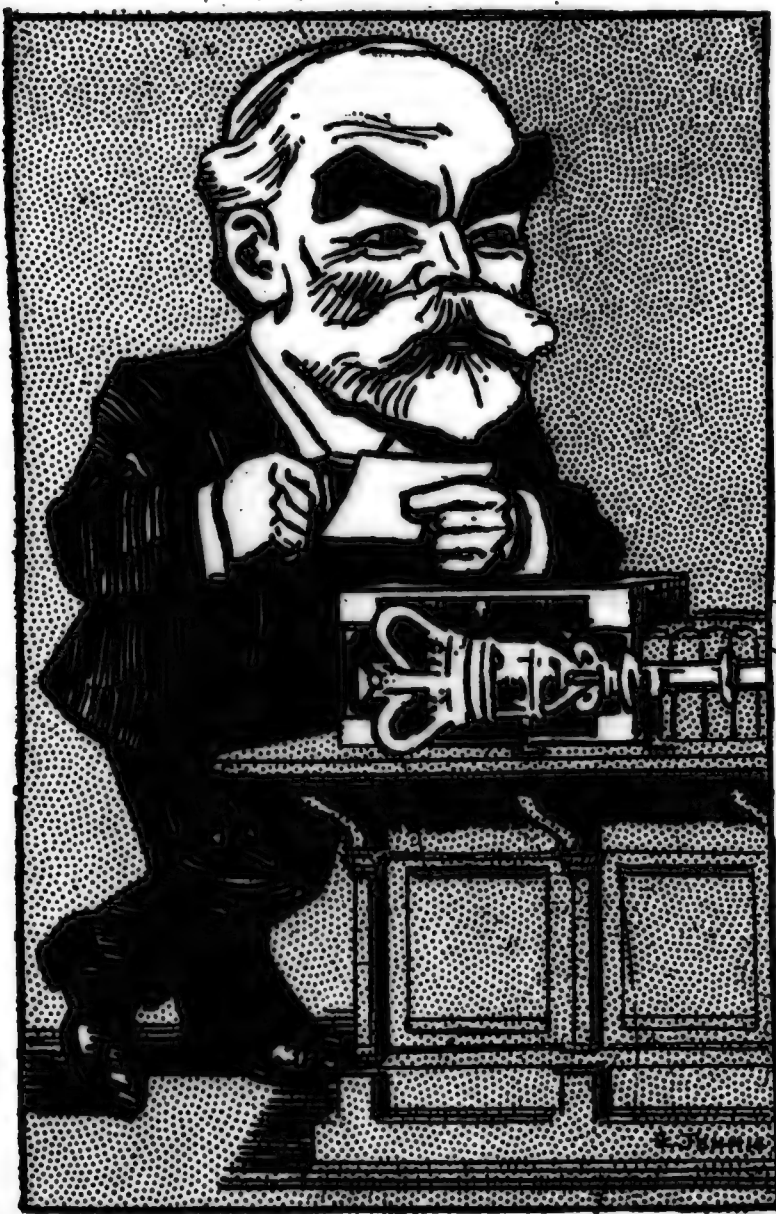
Name
(Send this form or a post-card mentioning this paper.)

Address
C.A.A.

JOHN BULL'S POST-CARDS.

The Dowager Empress of Russia, care of Queen Alexandra, Sandringham.

Madame,—It is forty-four years since you were in England. You were then the inseparable friend and sister of our own Queen, and you came to her marriage with our own King. Not long afterwards you, too, were betrothed to Russia's heir. But he passed to his bourne before your marriage with him, and on his death-bed he joined your hands with those of his brother, who afterwards became Alexander III. Again I welcome you, madame, to free and freedom-loving England, and I hope your stay among us will give you all the happiness we wish for you. Our King Edward we hold in loyalty, honour, and affection, our Queen we revere for the goodness and graciousness of the life which seems so closely interwoven with our own. We know you less well than they, Madame. Russia



THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BURNS, M.P.
Tempora Mutantur.

is so far off, so vast, and mysterious, and dim, and things happen there which we do not understand. But you are our Queen's sister, and while you are with her, therefore with us, no word or act of ours shall give you pain. You are our friend, our near relation. It is because we know how to be free that we know how to be hospitable. With all respects, madame,

JOHN BULL.

Sir Thomas Lipton, Bart., Osidge, Southgate, N.

My Dear Tommy,—Hearty congratulations on the fact that you are still alive. Accidents will happen in the best regulated motor-cars, and if you had driven your 50 h.p. Itala car into the train which dashed

across the level-crossing at Avignon just as you were about to pass over it, we should have all been in mourning by now, and I might have been explaining in an epitaph that you were greatly beloved by all who knew you. From the quick and clever way you turned your car along the line I gather that you do not wish to die yet, and as long as you drive a 50 h.p. machine I trust you will be able to respect your own wishes. I cannot express my regard for you in a more handsome way than that. How's business?

JOHN BULL.

Thomas Catling, Esq., ex-Editor of Lloyd's Newspaper.

Dear Cat.,—Sorry I was not able to get to the dinner at which Lord Burnham and the others fêted you the other night on your retirement, but I was with you in spirits. If I had been present, however, I should have been with you in champagne, and we would have had a fizzing time of it.

I note that among other things they gave you as souvenirs of the long, laborious, and honoured years you have spent in the neighbourhood of Fleet Street, were a service of plate and a grand piano. I know you play upon the plate, but it is news to me that you play upon the grand piano. What do you intend to do with yourself now that you have nothing to do? For goodness sake don't start in the piano line. You'll only run up against Paderewski, Emil Sauer, and Mark Hambourg if you do, and then there will be a row, especially if Paderewski gets mad enough at your setting up in business against him to bang down both his hands on the bass keys and one of his feet on the loud pedal. If that happens, you won't be able to hear yourself think, take my word for it. No, don't travel around with the piano. I know a bit about that scathing instrument myself. I can play the "Blue Bells of Scotland" with one finger, and unless you can play "Sing me to Sleep" with two you won't be in it. You might just as well stay at home and cultivate your own garden.

On the whole, that is perhaps the best thing you can do. You have no idea what a lot of fun a fellow gets by planting rose trees in the wrong soil and at the wrong time, or by pushing seeds into the ground and waiting for them to grow up. Five years ago I sowed nine penny packets, and I am waiting for the flowers, fruits, and vegetables. There is no sport like gardening for a man with time on his hands. But good luck, Tommy, wherever you are, and whatever you do. You've come through life with a patriarchal bearing and a smiling face, and now that Fleet Street and all its works are behind you, I hope you'll be happy ever after. Au 'voir.

JOHN BULL.

Colonel Brocklehurst, M.P., Huddersfield, Yorks.

Felt that I must drop you a p.c., Brocky, though I confess I don't know whether to congratulate you or commiserate you. I would like to give unto you beauty for ashes, and the oil of joy for mourning, but, alas! I know not whether you weep or whether you laugh.

I'll put it this way—if you were not suited to the lady I'm sorry for you, and if she is not suited to you I am sorry for her. Even that doesn't seem quite the proper thing to say. Well, what is the proper thing to say in such circumstances, and on such information, anyhow? If you know, say it yourself, and say it nicely.

Though the wedding presents were all given, and some of them suitably inscribed, I agree with you that "it is better to be a little unhappy for a short while than be bound together unhappily for a long time." And marriage is for a long time, Brocky; at all events, it seems so when it is not quite the right sort. You and the lady have parted the best of friends, I hear. As is written, "the best of friends must part." Now I come to think of it, I can see that the correct thing to do is to congratulate both of you. If you had got married you would have lived to regret it. Now you can both enjoy yourselves.

JOHN BULL.

THE SINS OF SOCIETY.



THEY FILL THE CHURCH—AND INCIDENTALLY THE COLLECTION PLATE.

WEALTH is made **SAVE** and not **EARN**
by what you **SAVE** by what you **EARN**

Don't waste time envying the
day and save out of your pocket
Tailor's bill—why not reduce it by half and still look spick and span. If you

man with more money—start to
salary. For instance, there's your
By making your clothes last twice as long. Don't

give them away because they are soiled or out of
shape. Send them to us and we will clean and

press them and make them look like
a new suit for 4/6. We are also
specialists in the cleaning of Ladies'
Dresses, Blouses, Gloves, etc. Send for
Booklet "B" which gives full parti-
culars, or call at one of our numer-
ous Branches. Chief London Office
25, WIGMORE STREET, W.

A
NEW
SUIT.

JOHNSON BROTHERS
BOOTLE DYE WORKS, LIVERPOOL.

TRIUMPH

THE IMPERIAL TRIUMPH

The Bicycle of Distinction possesses many patented specialities. Many makers claim distinction by adding one or two superfluous tubes—we claim distinction by embodying in the Triumph real practical specialities of proved merit, and place at the rider's disposal simple adjustment, ease of control, and comfort. Triumph Eccentric Bracket—A simple method of chain adjustment and additional strength to the frame. Patent Hand Brake—Hand applied, giving absolute control. Resilient Front Forks—Eliminating vibration and giving comfort to the rider. Triumph Art Catalogue—Beautifully illustrated from scenes on the road, post free. Prices of various models from £25 15 0 — £116 5 0 or by easy payments from 10/- monthly. Motor Cycles, £25. Triumph Agents (in almost every town) deliver carriage paid; where not represented cycles sent direct from works packed free, and carriage paid.

TRIUMPH CYCLE CO., Ltd.,
(Dept. W.), COVENTRY (Estab. 1883); LONDON—4-5, Holborn Viaduct, E.C. GLASGOW—101, Mitchell Street. LIVERPOOL—4, King Edward Street. MANCHESTER—100, Deansgate.

CYCLES

MONEY

ARTICLES

MADE

CLEAR.

STOCK EXCHANGE JARGON.

All Technicalities fully explained in the new

DICTIONARY OF

STOCK EXCHANGE TERMS.

POST FREE for 3d. stamps of

HALFORD & CO., Palmerston House, London, E.C.

Estd. January 1896.

Tel. : 237 Mayfair.

W. EVANS & CO.,
Tailors & Breeches Makers.

No connection with any other house.
Under the same proprietorship and man-
agement since the firm was founded.

The FIELD says, Dec. 17, '94: "It is with some degree of confidence that we can recommend the breeches made by EVANS and Co., of 77, St. Portland St., London, W. ANY AND EVERY Tailor will attempt breeches making, but the real artists are few and far between. Mr. Evans has made a study of breeches for many years, and he has certainly solved the problem of how breeches should be made."

The "Major," in LONDON OPINION, Oct. 4, 1903, says: "Messrs. Evans made me the best Norfolk suit I ever had."

TRUTH says: "Our latest discovery in Tailoring is Evans, 77, St. Portland St., who can actually do."

MORNING COAT from 42 15 0

TROUSERS 12 0 0

DRESS SUIT 5 5 0

OVERCOAT 3 3 0

BREECHES 1 15 0

Please note our only address—

W. EVANS & Co., 77, St. Portland St., London, W.

(Adjoining Queen's Hall.)



£20

to

£5,000

CASH ADVANCED
PRIVATELY.

WITHOUT SURETY FOR ANY PERIOD.

On approved note of hand in town or country. No preliminary fees. Terms to suit client's convenience. No publicity, delay, or routine.

WILLIAM STANLEY & CO.,

97, Cannon Street, London, E.C. (Opposite Cannon Street Station)

Phone: 7294 West.

No connection with any other firm of same name in London.

AMONG THE MUMMERS.

"THE PLAIN BUSINESS MAN."

His very intimate friends allude to him as "Alick"—they used to call him that. The girls in pit and gallery know him as "George." To the suburban women, on whom the commercial drama in England chiefly depends, he is "Alexander," and for the most part they think him great. Following a quaint old Lyceum fashion, everybody about his theatre speaks of him as "The Chief." An engaging personality, in public and private alike, he blends the reticent wisdom of the serpent with the gentle affectations of the dove. In his office there stands a noble bust of Molière, at which (when youngish interviewers are afoot) he gazes in weirdly picturesque abstraction.

Respectable elderly mothers confess to feeling quite young again in presence of his lime-lit love-making. Their daughters admire, not only his pretty little ways, but his "beautiful hands," and crowd his matinées. Their sons try vainly to match his wondrous knitted waistcoats—the work of Mrs. A. Their husbands attain to startling results (and very sore throats) by following his lead in woollen collars. He has the kindest eye that ever quelled a rebellious super; and he makes one of the best-selling picture post-cards ever produced to catch the coppers of the Young Person. And yet he asked the ratepayers of St. Pancras to forget that he was an actor and to regard him as "the plain business man." Had not the *Daily Mirror* assured them that his frockcoats would set the fashion at Spring Gardens, and had not all our prettiest actresses spent their recent leisure in ringing the ratepayers' door-bells on his behalf, the ratepayers might have agreed to the proposal. In that event would the profession of actor-management be represented at this moment on the London County Council? It is very uncertain; for great is the glamour of the mummer, and even your Cockney has a tender feeling for the familiar actor. Yet Mr. Alexander is essentially a business man, plain or coloured, actor or no actor. No doubt he is as keenly interested in the art of the theatre as those rival caterers who talk more loudly on that topic. I have never read an essay from his pen on "The Actor's Calling," or heard him lecture on "The Condition of the Drama." But he has staged more good plays by good English playwrights than any of his competitors.

Still, "George" is not ashamed to declare that he "keeps a shop" by day, although he acts by night and on occasional afternoons. It is told of him that a new acquaintance met him early one forenoon rushing down St. James's Street, and expressed surprise at his presence thereabouts at such an unearthly hour. "Weren't you playing last night?" asked the friend. "Oh, yes," came the reply, "I was playing last night, and now I'm off to try and sell some tickets for to-night." True or false, the story is characteristic. So are the many tales that are told of his quiet, but generous, philanthropies. Quite otherwise was the tale told against him in connection with Oscar Wilde; and it was untrue. When the name of Wilde was omitted from the St. James's bills, it was on the suggestion of the author himself, not of the manager. A liberal employer, he is at the same time a shrewd man of commerce, as becomes his country of origin (Scotland), his name (Samson), and his youthful training-ground (the wholesale drapery trade).

Kemble was an ardent local politician, but Mr. A. is the first actor ever elected to serve on a London municipal body—albeit, Mr. Bernard Shaw has been a vestryman and Mr. George Foster, the theatrical agent, a member of the London County Council. Perhaps our present subject may also be the first actor to enter Parliament. In that case, doubtless, he would prove as useful, if not so brilliant a spokesman for the stage as Sheridan—since whom the Drama has had no worthy representative in the House of Commons. Mr. Alexander would be popular in Parliament; for he is of the few well-known actors who are human beings once they doff the grease-paint. Financial necessity will not compel Mr. Alexander to linger longer behind the footlights than inclination tempts; for he is a wealthy man. And he has big ambitions outside his trade. A charming place at Chorley Wood, fine horses, golf *ad lib.*, and the foils, with half his income, would satisfy many of us more entirely than the Strenuous Life. But "George" has the habit of urban activity; and inside ten years I fully expect to see him serving the people at Westminster instead of entertaining them in the West End. Perhaps he may turn out as amusing in the new rôle as in the old. One never knows.

WICKED PLAYS FOR WICKED PEOPLE.

No doubt there are unwholesome persons with the instincts of rabbits, who are capable of corruption through seeing French plays which they only understand in part. No doubt, also, such persons, having read the reports of Father

Vaughan's latest piece of sensation-mongering, will regret that they did not attend the closing season at the New Royalty Theatre. Let me hasten to comfort them. They have missed very little indeed of the sort of thing Father Vaughan pretends that they could have wallowed in with such extreme unction. Of course, the drama in France is written by grown-up people for grown-up people. It aims, as a rule, at illustrating some idea or phase of actual life. When it is imported to England, the manager and the Censor unite, as often as not, in a process of prudish fumigation; and the result, in such a case as Donnay's "Education de Prince," is even less nice than the original play. However, with this single exception, I have not seen anything at the Dean Street theatre this winter that would have unduly excited the susceptibilities of Mr. Stead. Some of the pieces were risqué enough, but they were always diverting when risqué; and the vice that one laughs at is never dangerous. Naturally, the Bayswater spinster who took her little boarders to the French series without careful inquiry in advance, might find cause for intermittent blushing; but the rule for Bayswater and other boarding-school mistresses should be "when in doubt try the classics." Dead authors can do no wrong—even dead French authors; or else why can the demi-vierge buy their printed works for leisurely consumption and a few pence at any corner bookshop?

THE L.C.C. AND THE PEOPLE'S PLEASURES.

Under the two-party system our elections are fought on such a multitude of different questions that it is impossible to be quite sure of the meaning of the Progressive downfall. I am convinced, however, that the snuffling Puritan line taken by many leading Progressives on the Council in matters affecting the people's right to enjoy themselves in their own way has helped to bring about the recent débâcle. For the work of the Council in safeguarding the public from danger by fire I have nothing but praise, although I believe the managers of music-halls and theatres declare that they suffer from much needless red-tape and official fussiness. The facts here speak for themselves. There are in London 371 places of public entertainment licensed by the L.C.C.—fifty-one music-halls and fifty-eight theatres—with accommodation for 400,000 persons, and an average daily attendance of about a quarter of a million. The Council has controlled these places for seventeen years; and during that time not a single life has been lost by fire or panic. The cost to the public of this security is .029 of a penny in the pound per annum—less, that is to say, than the Council's ridiculous policy of surrendering liquor licenses on improvement areas. The Progressives claim that they have elevated the "tone" of the music-halls. I do not agree with them. In so far as there has been improvement, I believe it has come from within—from the audiences and the entertainers themselves, not from the Council's system of modified espionage. Again, there is much grumbling among City people living in the outer suburbs at the Grundian administration of the parks, which are closed at sun-down, instead of being properly lighted; and supplied with music at such hours as suit the convenience only of the local nurse-maid. Here, once more, we come into conflict with the "Temperance" fad of the late Progressive majority, who refused to allow the ratepayer to drink a glass of beer o' nights in his own open spaces. If the Municipal Reformers come out strong as the defenders of the popular liberties in this matter of recreation they will certainly find much support among ratepayers whose political sympathies are largely with the other side.

THE WEEK AT THE PLAY.

The present week has been one of the busiest at the West End theatres since the autumn season opened. Mr. Charles Frohman has shown us two new things—Mr. Seymour Hick's musical comedy, "My Darling," at the Hick's Theatre, and Mrs. Ryley's adaptation of Pierre Berton's "La Belle Marseillaise," with the title, "The Great Conspiracy" at the Duke of York's. In the latter we have Mr. John Hare as Napoleon—who next? In the former, the most attractive feature has really nothing to do with the piece at all—it is some imitations of favourite stage artists by Miss Marsden, one of the most promising of our younger actresses, who made a very favourable impression on the critics at a recent matinée. Mrs. Patrick Campbell has achieved something of a personal triumph as Hedda Gabler at a Court matinée, and Mr. Arthur Bouchier has brought to town a revised version of "Mr. Sheridan" by Miss Gladys Unger, in whose eventual popularity as a dramatist, I understand, the late Mr. Yerkes had a firm belief. And now we have Mr. Alexander defying the Fates by staging Mr. Sutro's new play on a Friday; and all the Old Brigade are wagging their paws solemnly, and wondering what will happen to him in consequence.

P.

BUCHANAN'S

"BLACK

&

WHITE"

THE WHISKY OF WORLD
WIDE REPUTE

CHARING CROSS BANK.

(Established 1870.)

28, Bedford-Street, Charing-Cross, W.C., and
59, Bishopsgate-Street Within, London, E.C.
Branches: Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, Leeds, Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield,
Cardiff, Southampton, Plymouth, etc.

Assets, £1,355,249. Liabilities, £796,788. Surplus, £558,461.

Loans of £50 to £3,000 made on any class security.

2½ per cent. allowed on Current Account Balances.

Deposits of £10 and upwards received as under:—

Subject to 3 months' notice of withdrawal 5 p.c. per ann.

Special terms for longer periods. Interest paid quarterly.

The Terminable Deposit Bonds pay nearly 9 per cent., and are a safe investment. Owing to the nature of our investments, we are able to pay rates of interest on deposits that will compare favourably with dividends paid on almost any class of stock or share-holding insuring the safety of capital. We have been established for 36 years, and our position in the banking world to-day testifies to the success of our business methods, and to the satisfaction of our customers. Write or call for prospectus.

A. WILLIAMS and H. J. TALL, Joint Managers.

NOTE
OF
HAND
ALONE.

IMMEDIATE LOANS.

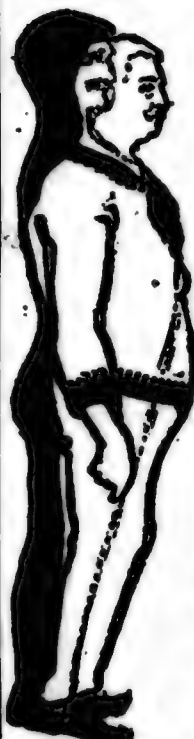
without surety or security. Strictest privacy. Repayments to suit convenience. Interviews unnecessary. Cash sent by post.

Telephone: 2868 Mayfair. F. NORTH & CO. 72, Praed St., Paddington, London, W.

£5
and up.

FLESH REDUCTION NEW METHOD.

Corpulency cured. The body made symmetrical without dieting, drugs or concoctions. Hips and Abdomen reduced from two to six inches by the Cleese System in a few weeks.



All Superfluous Flesh round the Abdomen and Hips can be easily removed by a series of prescribed bodily movements of an interesting and exhilarating nature, the practice of which will take up but a few minutes per day.

A distinct and conspicuous improvement is apparent in less than one week, and a reduction of from four to six inches around the abdomen can be obtained in the short period of from six to eight weeks. The system was originated entirely by Mr. F. Meredith Cleese, Ph.D., of 74, New Bond Street, London, W., late Director of Exercises to Halesbury College, etc. It was only after nearly twenty years of practical experience that he was able to improve his system, so that it could physically perfect the body in any direction desired. This method is especially advantageous in fat reduction, and is superior to all other methods that aim at this object. Once the effects of the Cleese method have been felt, it is impossible for the body ever to lose its beauty, fitness or symmetrical proportions.

Further, Mr. Cleese is so confident of the efficacy of his treatment that he is prepared to refund your full fees, if satisfactory results are not obtained.

FREE AN INSTRUCTIVE
AND INTERESTING
BOOK OF 96 PAGES.

Mr. Cleese has prepared an exhaustive treatise upon his method. It is full of just the information you may require. Just cut out the Coupon, marking it as asked. This is requested of you in order that serious enquirers can sufficiently judge the merits of the method. Mr. Cleese will also send to you a letter of personal advice. Nothing will be charged for either and they will both be sent post free. All correspondence will be treated in the most strictly confidential manner.

Consultations Gratis. Kindly Call if possible.

F. MEREDITH CLEESE, Ph.D., 74, New Bond St.
LONDON.

172.

Put a mark X against any of the following in regard to which you desire special improvement.

Round Shoulders.
Flat Chest.
Head stoop.
Protruding Abdomen.
Incurved Back.
Constipation.
Indigestion.
Ungraceful Walk.
Superfluous Flesh.
Prominent Hips.

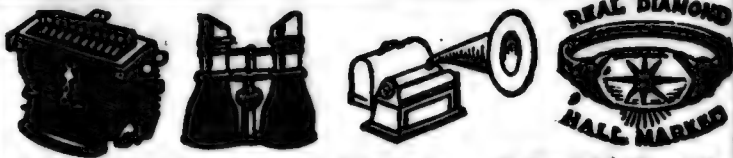
"Is your Figure or Health imperfect in any way not mentioned?"

"Occupation."

"What is your Age?"

Sex.

CUT THIS OUT.
POST TO ME.



"HAPPY HOME SEEDS."

Why pay cash for Vegetable and Flower Seeds? WE TRUST YOU.

£25,000 FREE GIFTS.

We Guarantee Our Seeds. 25,000 Unsolicited Testimonials.

In order to introduce our HIGH-GRADE TESTED SEEDS into every home, we are going to GIVE AWAY PRIZES FREE TO ANY PERSON, such as Musical Instruments, Cutlery, Boys' Suits, Girls' Dresses, Blouses, Leather

Goods, Jewellery, Ladies' and Gents' Watches, Diamond Rings, Cricket Bats, Rifles, Footballs, Phonographs, Cameras, and all kinds of Athletic and Sporting Goods, etc., etc. IT NEED NOT COST YOU ONE PENNY OF YOUR OWN MONEY; all you have to do is to send us your full name and address, and we will send you per return of post thirty-six packets of assorted seeds (Sweet Peas, Clarkia Pulchella, Chrysanthemum, Sweet William, Malope, White Sweet

Pea, Silene Pendula, etc., etc.), OR French Breakfast, Radish, Beet, Scarlet Runner Beans, Vegetable Marrow, Large Red Mammoth Tomato, Mustard, Cress, etc., etc. Sell or use the packets at ad per packet within twenty-eight days, send us the money, and we will send you ANY PRESENT YOU MAY SELECT from our new Grand List. THE PRIZES WE GIVE YOU FREE are worth more than the money you send us. But we want to advertise our seeds for the next six months. You can plant our seeds at home or in the open at any time, and transplant them. If you cannot sell or use the 36 packets, sell or use what you can and we will REWARD YOU WITH A HANDSOME PRESENT JUST THE SAME. Be sure and state whether Flower or Vegetable seeds required. Write at once (a post-card will do) to

GEROME & Co., Ltd.

(Dept. J.B.), 83 87, Fleet St., London, E.C.

The PROVINCIAL HOMES Investment Co., Ltd.,

provides a safe, convenient, and profitable means of saving, combined with exceptional advantages enabling you to

BECOME YOUR OWN LANDLORD,

and apply towards paying for the house money which would otherwise be spent in rent. Any district. Particulars post free on receipt of postcard.

MOST LIBERAL & EQUITABLE CONDITIONS.

The amount advanced by the Company is already over £250,000.

London Committee: Sir HENRY E. DRAING, Bart., J.P., D.L. Colonel T. F. HORDAY, C.B. Sir PERCY D. N. DIXWELL-OXENDEN, Bart., J.P. JOHN LEESE. Colonel W. H. F. MACMILLAN.

Head Office: { 2, MOUNT STREET, MANCHESTER, and 71, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C. Managing Director: CHARLES LEESE, J.P. Manager at London: JOHN LEESE

ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REQUIRED.

Lucrative Terms. Good appointments secured by successful Agents.

VARICOSE VEINS, VARICOCELE, etc., CURED without operation or drugs.

READ THIS:—

It is with pleasure I now write to tell you the Varicose Veins in my legs have almost entirely disappeared. When I think of the agony I endured, and the continual fear I had of my veins bursting, I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the benefit received from your Treatment.

and this:—

Since my last report I have made so much progress that I am now able to state the Varicose Veins have entirely disappeared.

(Originals can be seen.)

Call or write for particulars (post free).

INSTITUTE of NATURAL THERAPEUTICS (Dept. J.B.), 78, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. BULL.

(Mrs. Bull will be delighted to receive suggestions and contributions from our readers.)

THE APPROACH OF EASTER.

Easter and new garments are indivisible in the average feminine mind, but the choice of an early spring gown and hat is always difficult, especially when, as is the case this year, Easter falls early. It must be light in appearance but warm—in fact, sufficiently spring-like to look suitable for a warm sunny day, and yet not so light as to be out of keeping if the weather be unpropitious. Light greys and powder blues are very safe colours for this season, and the wise woman will have a costume made with a long revered coat and a tiny bolero or pelerine, so that in any weather she will be fairly safe.

DAME FASHION'S ABDICATION.

We are wiser than our grandmothers, or even our mothers. In the last few years woman has, to a great extent, emancipated herself from the tyranny of fashion. Instead of being allowed two styles of dress, one kind of coiffure, and perhaps three sorts of hats, we can revel in a dozen styles. If it suits us to have our hair dressed high we may wear it so without exciting comment; if a large hat suits us better than a small one we are free to wear it. Never has Dame Fashion been so meek—long may the era last.

THE CARE OF BOOTS AND SHOES.

The average woman has very little notion of the best way to ensure that her foot-gear shall last a long time and look nice to the bitter end. This is the way. In the first place always have at least two pairs of boots and one pair of walking shoes in use, and never wear them in the house or wear the same pair two days running. Every other day they should be put upon trees. When they first come home they should be coated thickly with dubbin and left to absorb it for a week. Then they should be coated with Nubian blacking. They will then be sufficiently waterproofed to bear being washed when muddy. They should never be brushed, nor should any of the patent blackings be used. Instead, they may be polished with a good saddle paste applied with one cloth and polished with a selvyt. This sounds a little complicated, but only try it for a few months and see the result. Every six weeks or so the dubbin and Nubian treatment should be repeated. The dubbin "feeds" the leather and prevents the unsightly creases so often seen in boots and shoes.

NATIONAL COSTUME.

The national costume of a country is probably evolved from the starting point of its suitability to the prevailing type.

One can hardly imagine a German woman, for instance, looking well in a mantilla.

But, most likely, some dark-eyed Spanish beauty posing before her mirror one day in self-admiration, wound a piece of lace over her head and found it becoming; the other women grew envious and imitative, and the fashion was born.

Utility also has its say in the development of dress, and the fur cap and high boots of the Russian were added, as its quota, to the garish embroideries and bizarre garments. The latter seem to suggest that the Russian peasant, aware that he was not a universally comely object, sought to divert the eye independent of personal charms. Just as the severe simplicity of the early Greeks came from a realisation of their innate beauty. And the Roman, slavishly imitating them in all else, easily recognised that their type required a more ornate embellishment.

I think the top hat must have come from some highly respectable, but pompous, Englishman, who lacked a sense of humour. Take from the Japanese lady her kimono and she becomes a "dowd"; take her Parisian fashionis from a Frenchwoman and she becomes insignificant at once. The Dutch surely, among all nations, have discovered a style of dress best suited to set off the fresh buxomness their women possess. The clogs, the full short skirts, the clean white caps with the big pins, are well calculated to enhance the charms of comely but commonplace womanhood. We English have no distinctive national dress, and our women, perhaps because we are so mixed a race, seem peculiarly adaptable to all styles. How charming, for instance, our girls look in "Miss Hook of Holland."

As dainty Miss Gracie Leigh so humorously sings:

"I've a little pink petty from Peter,
And a little blue petty from John,
And I've one green and yellow
From some other fellow,
And one that I haven't got on!"

THE ABOLITION OF BARMAIDS.

A SOCIAL DANGER.

BY W. GUNN GWENNET.

The barmaid is disappearing; divorce and judicial separations are increasing. Is it possible that there is any connection between the two phenomena?

The question of the abolition of barmaids by Act of Parliament contains graver issues than the deprivation of a number of women of their means of livelihood for their own good. Those who advocate such a drastic measure should pause and consider the disastrous effect it would have on the intimate home life of a large section of the community.

Without the refuge of a sympathetic barmaid, or one so skilled in her calling as to appear sympathetic, where, it may be asked, could the henpecked retailer of ancient anecdotes, the married punster, or the paterfamilias overflowing with facetiousness, where could these countless thousands turn to find an outlet for their baneful efforts?

A man may not make bad puns—nor yet good ones, if there are such—in the presence of his fellow-men with impunity, hence barmaids.

A man may not chaff his own wife, hence barmaids.

Nor can he explain to her why he is a better judge of horseflesh because he put the shilling on a losing horse, hence barmaids.

And he cannot tell his wife the funny stories he hears or invents. She will either not see the point at all, or feebly smile at one of her own selecting.

But more often, at the utterance of the formula: "Did I ever tell you that one about—?" she will stop the would-be narrator with a weary "Yes, dear. Hold baby for a minute, please." He holds baby, and his tongue, for the interminable hour that constitutes a minute, baby time, and then seeks the barmaid.

Known to her is every story that was ever invented; yet she listens with such sublime patience that her torturer mistakes it for enjoyment, and tells another—and "has another," too.

To the ruthless recital of the nonsensical sayings and doings of a man's firstborn, who will hearken so politely—sometimes, perhaps, a little wistfully—as the gracious lady polishing a spotless glass?

The jealousy of wives is usually without foundation, but almost invariably so when it takes the form of animosity towards ladies of the bar.

If all jealous wives—and every good wife is jealous—would but realise that barmaids, by acting, quite unconsciously, as safety valves, in reality keep together ten thousand homes for every one they wreck, there would be a national outburst of feminine gratitude towards them.

Ought a wife to be angered because it has leaked out that her spouse is in the habit of seeking the opinion of a barmaid on his new tie? Not at all. She has only herself to blame, for she would insist on buying him new ties. Every man believes a woman understands him until she buys him a new tie. Disillusioned, and yet not bereft of the desire to have his own taste applauded, he may be pardoned for taking the opinion of the bar, which is invariably favourable.

To suppose that the fascinations of a barmaid ever keep a husband out late is sheer nonsense. If anything keeps him out late, you may be sure it is his own wife.

When he married her he was probably under the impression that he could talk to her for ever as flippantly as he habitually did to bar ladies, and that she was gifted with as much of his idea of common sense as they, or at least the ability to conceal the want of it.

His awakening comes with, to him, extreme rapidity, for he discovers that after he has made his little jokes to his wife but a bare half-dozen times, she actually has the temerity to inform him that he has told her before!

The ladies she is so afraid of never do this. Rather do they cap his little pleasantry with another a few centuries later in date. And when next day he comes back and tells them their own jokelet in a manner which cunningly conveys that he is the inventor of it, although he says Brown is the guilty party, these good women bear with him bravely, and never unmask him.

The momentous question presents itself: Is there anything in our whole complex social system that could take the place of such angelic self-sacrifice, and form even a passable substitute to fill the void the total disappearance of the barmaid would create?

Man, as long as he remains human, must chaff, pun, quip, rally, quiz, and make a fool of himself generally by word of mouth. Then, beware! O makers of law! how you tamper with this fundamental law of human nature. Abolish the barmaids and you will thereby wreck countless happy homes, and, mayhap, irrevocably undermine the tender fabric of society itself!

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Chief Office—HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed £63,000,000.

Summary of the Report presented at the Fifty-eighth Annual Meeting held on 7th March, 1907.

ORDINARY BRANCH.—The number of policies issued during the year was 79,942, assuring the sum of £7,529,081, and producing a new annual premium income of £424,145. The premiums received during the year were £4,290,971, being an increase of £167,653 over the year 1905. The claims of the year amounted to £1,947,444. The number of deaths was 7,656, and 8,686 endowment assurances matured.

The number of policies in force at the end of the year was 807,218.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.—The premiums received during the year were £6,499,028, being an increase of £359,978. The claims of the year amounted to £2,376,863. The number of deaths was 260,941, and 3,342 endowment assurances matured. The number of free policies granted during the year to those policyholders of five years' standing and upwards, who desired to discontinue their payments was 120,198, the number in force being 1,194,482. The number of free policies which became claims during the year was 28,084.

The total number of policies in force at the end of the year was 16,764,654; their average duration exceeds eleven years.

The assets of the Company, in both branches, as shown in the balance sheet, are £63,887,008, being an increase of £4,422,632 over those of 1905.

The increase granted early in the year under the principal Industrial Branch tables, to provide for which £750,000 was transferred from reserve, affected nearly thirteen million policies, ten millions of which received an immediate increase in the sum assured. The Directors are glad to say that the alteration has been highly appreciated, and has resulted in a large accession of new business.

As the shareholders are aware, the Directors have on many occasions granted extended benefits to Industrial Branch policyholders. The total cost of these benefits already exceeds £4,000,000. It is the intention of the Directors to continue this policy, and if possible to establish it upon a more definite basis.

For each of the past ten years a reversionary bonus at the rate of £1 10s. per cent. on the original sums assured has been added to all classes of participating policies in the Ordinary Branch issued since the year 1876. The Directors are now pleased to announce a reversionary bonus at the rate of £1 12s. per cent.

Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co. have examined the securities, and their certificate is appended to the balance sheets.

FREDK. SCHOOLING.

D. W. STABLE,

Actuary.

Secretary.

THOS. C. DEWEY, General Manager.

The full Report and Balance Sheet can be obtained upon application.

EPPS'S

GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.

It forms a welcome delicacy for the morning and evening meal. A fragrant, delicious and most healthful beverage. As a food for quite young children it is admirable, too, on account of its nourishing and strengthening qualities.

NUTRITIOUS AND ECONOMICAL.

COCOA

RETAIL PROFITS SAVED

by all who make their selections from H. SAMUEL'S 200 page Catalogue, sent post free.

Write to-day—H. SAMUEL, 199, MARKET STREET, MANCHESTER.

178, Strand, W.C.

Fifty London & Provincial Branches.

25/-

32/6

RUPTURE TREATMENTS.

All the various rupture treatments advertised from time to time have been found to be easily classified under two heads, viz., Curative treatments and Palliative treatments. A large number of Palliative treatments (which usually consist of the mere wearing of a truss) have been freely advertised, but they are easily distinguished from the curative methods by the fact that they are usually content to publish unsigned testimonials to the effect that "the truss appears to be giving satisfaction."

There are fewer genuine Curative treatments for rupture than one would suppose after reading the various advertisements with which the newspapers of to-day are crowded. But despite the bombastic advertising of rupture cures, there are some that deserve honourable mention and at the very head of them all stands the Rice Method. This method has stood the test for nearly 30 years and has behind it a record of honest, straightforward, square and upright dealing and results in the form of perfect cures (the testimonials of which show their genuineness by reason of having full name and address given for verification if desired) such as very few treatments, for whatever disease or malady prescribed, can show.

As an instance of what this method has done, we draw your attention to a case which has recently come under our notice. The case in point is that of Mr. Frederick Francis, 12, Royal Parade, Blackheath, S.E., who had suffered from double scrotal rupture for over 30 years, and for the last 10 years of that period his rupture was of the irreducible type. He had despaired of ever getting relief. The Rice Method was recommended to him, and after going carefully into the matter he was convinced it would benefit him, so he began its use. In 20 days his rupture was completely reduced. He persevered with the treatment and was perfectly cured, and has not worn any truss of any description for over two years now. As Mr. Francis is a large heavy man (weighing 16 st.), this is certainly a remarkable cure—and, by the way, these people do not claim a person is cured until they are able to entirely dispense with a truss.

If you are ruptured, and are looking for a cure in addition to relief from the usual torturous truss, we believe you will not be disappointed if you apply to William S. Rice, R.S., Ltd., 8 & 9, Stonecutter Street, London, E.C. If you call upon them or write, be sure to mention your old friend "John Bull."

[ADVT.]

THE BOLDEST RAZOR OFFER EVER MADE.

TEN SHAVE TEST

Shave yourself TEN TIMES with a "MASTER-RESCUE" and send the Razor back if you are not thoroughly satisfied, we shall at once return money in full. You can't buy a better blade for a guinea. Every Razor warranted.

The Price is **3/-**



Hollowground. Absolute perfection. Shaves smoothly and easily. No pulling or backing. Highly polished Black Vulcanite Handle. A Pair of Razors in Velvet Lined Case, 7/6

J. G. Graves, Ltd., Razor Dept., Sheffield

The Milk Chocolate "PAR EXCELLENCE."

FRY'S

"Unrivalled as a chocolate confection."—

"MEDICAL MAGAZINE,"

"Highest Standard of Purity."—A. B. GRIFFITHS, Ph.D., &c. Analytical Chemist, London.

"Five Boys" Milk Chocolate, British Milk & British Labour.

BIRKBECK BANK.

Established 1861.
SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.2½ PER CENT. INTEREST
allowed on Deposit Accounts.2 PER CENT. INTEREST
on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book.All general Banking Business transacted.
ALMANACK, with full particulars, POST FREE.

O. F. RAVENSBOFT, Secretary.

BULL'S EYES.

SOME UNFOUNDED RUMOURS:—

That the Progressives are *not* downhearted.

That the Premier wants "Protection" from the ladies.

That Sir Berkeley Sheffield will become "Lord Brigg" when the Tories are in office again.

That Mr. M'Crae, M.P., is suffering from "eggsaggerated egg-oh."

That if the teetotal faddists get their way, Sunday will be known as the "Day of Thirst."

That applicants for the new "Honeymoon Compartments" on the Midland have to show their "marriage lines."

That the Government was warned to beware the "hidings of March."

That the Aunty-Suffragists have adopted the "three bawls" for their banner, but still want a Bannerman.

That Admiral Davis has written to thank Sir A. Swettenham for his promotion.

That under the new Council the P.O. Savings Bank expects a large increase in deposits.

That the new nursery cannon stroke is called "the cradle" because it was invented by Lovejoy.

That Mr. Burdett-Coutts, M.P., is now in favour of Church Disendowment.

The Sheffield licensing magistrates have declared that persons who walk three miles on Sunday to get a drink are not entitled to one, but only those who go for *the sake of the walk*. Publicans in the district are now studying thought reading.

LENTEN FARE:—

For Harry Thaw—Whitebait.

For Father Vaughan—Soles, fried.

For the Zancigs—Cod.

For Pearson's Parrot—Perch.

For Bookmakers—Plaice.

For the new knights—Dace.

For Progressives—Mullet.

For Ranjitsinjhi—Surrey lobsters.

For Motorists—Smelt.

For Bootmakers—Soles and eels.

For Lloyd-George—Whales.

For Royal Academicians—Dabs.

For Churchmen—Brill.

For Sandow—Mussels.

For Mr. Birrell—Fresh Erin.

For the East Ham Guardians—Haddock.

For Woolwich natives—Oysters, with compensation seasoning.

For Burglars—Chub, a very safe diet.

For the 'Varsity Crews—Crabs.

Lord Lansdowne is now a Grocer, having received the freedom of the Grocers' Company. We suggest the list should be extended:—

Lord Rosebery—Gardener: very fond of spadework.

Lord Northcliffe—Musician: an expert on the lyre.

A. J. Balfour—Tea merchant: is devoted to the caddy.

Lord Roberts—Ironmonger: maker of little ranges.

Winston Churchill—Pyrotechnic specialist: an authority on Chinese crackers.

Lord Kitchener—Chef: he cooked Kruger's goose.

Father Vaughan—Shoemaker: curer of soles.

W. S. Gilbert—Greengrocer: is said to have made a lot of money out of the Savoy.

Justice Darling—Photographer: or Miller.

MEMS WITTY-CUR MISSED:—

The miser's ideal age—The coin-age.

Eckstein's favourite big game—The rhino-ceros.

The naturalist's largest ant—The Eleph-ant.

An old-standing corn—The British Uni-corn.

"Blunt" instruments—Money scoops.

A "straight talk"—A poker argument.

A mush-room growth—Umbrellas in a sudden shower.

A drink for a dandy—Spruce.

A drink for the honeymoon—Lovage.

One who can't be overtaken—The under-taker.

The quantity of meat used by the British Army in 1905 was 45,000 tons. The amount wasted is not stated.

"People had far better give a man a sovereign than lend him one," says Judge Willis. Hear, hear.

Mr. Fletcher Robinson, the late editor of the *World*, has died worth £25,000. He must have inherited it.

Gambling, in the shape of insurance policies on Harry Thaw's chances of life, has been openly carried on at Lloyd's. Where is the Nonconformist conscience?

According to a daily paper, our sailors were charged the extortionate price of one shilling apiece for eggs. But they had their own hatchways, and if they wanted eggs, every ship could lay to.

The air of the "Twopenny Tube" is said to be much too dry. No doubt this is why so many passengers cross the road when they get to Shepherd's Bush.

Brazil intends to build a battleship to beat the "Dreadnought." A hard nut to crack.

Charles Tarr was recently acquitted at the Old Bailey, and was told that he left the court without a stain on his character. But he can't change his name.

An American newspaper correspondent says America is the leading nation of the earth in philosophy, poetry, religion, and education. Not to speak of flim-flam and flap-doodle.

Mr. Chetham, formerly of the British Embassy at Rome, has been married first civilly, then at the English Church, and then at the Greek church. Now he's tied a knot wi' his hands he'll be matched to unloose wi' his teeth, as they say in Yorkshire.

Mr. Whitley, M.P., was returned unopposed for Halifax. Its Liberalism is notorious.

The Salvation Army's Suicide Bureau has dealt with 200 cases in two months. The water has been so cold.

Sir W. T. Charley's defence of the House of Lords, "The Crusade Against the Constitution," was published at five shillings. It can now be bought for sevenpence. Too dear. No defence of the House of Lords is worth even a d.

It is said that in his new play Mr. Bouchier speaks with an Irish brogue. What of it? There are people who drink with an Irish brogue.

A will produced at Gravesend County Court the other day contained only this clause:—"If my wife calls, she will get nothing." It was pronounced invalid. This is a warning to testators to make things a dead certainty.

In Committee of the House of Commons on the Deceased Wife's Sisters Bill, Mr. Bowles said that those who had sinned openly should not be whitewashed. He did not explain whether he would keep them in blacking.

The Kaiser has flung an ultimatum at the head of Persia. The question is whether it shall give satisfaction for a missionary murder or whether it Shahn't.

A contemporary says it is fortunate for some of us that there are women who will love ugly men. You pay your money and they take their choice.

It seems that the King has no right to hear debates in the House of Commons. Another Royal prerogative! Oh, to be a King!

Our contemporary, *Punch*, has found its mission in life at last. It is a lion tamer! Major Powell-Cotton owes his life to having had a copy in his pocket which, we are told, "prevented the lion's claws from tearing him open." We rather suspect that it sent the poor beast asleep.

Several hundred thousand readers have sent us jokes about Mr. Harry Thaw being made to freeze—white frosts, etc. We will send them their cheques as soon as we have had time to write them out.

A letter posted in Cannes on January 29th, 1904, addressed to a resident in that town, was delivered on January 31st, 1907, having in the meantime tarried a short time in this country. Three cheers for the *Entente Cordiale*!

Counsel at Judge Edge's Court, in Clerkenwell, informed the judge the other day that he did not come there for amusement. Why does he not go and practice before Mr. Justice Darling?

Sheikh Habet Ahmad has invented a plan—another plan—for breaking the bank at Monte Carlo. He says he has discovered the secret of what is called "chance." Still the Monte Carlo smile don't come off.

"Kaffirs Awakening" announces the observant editor of a City column. A deputation of Basutos are now in this country, and we shall not be surprised if he has something to say about their "get up."

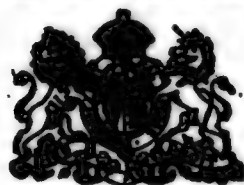
Drink and Enjoy

LIPTON'S TEA

The Finest the World can Produce.

[*Tea Merchants*]

GOLD MEDAL,
PARIS.



GOLD MEDAL,
ST. LOUIS.

By Special Appointment.

**BUY FROM THE CROWERS.
NO MIDDLEMEN'S PROFITS.
NO QUALITY EQUAL
TO LIPTON'S.**

**Direct from the Tea Gardens
to the Teapot.**

**Sole Proprietors of some of the most
famous Tea, Coffee and Cocoa Estates
in Ceylon, covering several thousands
of acres.**

LIPTON, Ltd.,

CHIEF OFFICES:

City Rd., London, E.C.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES EVERYWHERE.

LIPTON'S TEAS

**THE
LARGEST SALE IN THE WORLD.**

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[JOHN BULL replies to some of his numerous correspondents.]

C. G. J. (London) sends us a cutting from the *Daily Chronicle* stating that Miss Edna May "intends giving up acting after her marriage." Of course, she intends to be her natural self. Has C. G. J. seen the statement that the engagement has been broken off?

R. E. P. (Shepherd's Bush).—Do not worry about these small things. R.I.P.

W. H. (Herne Hill).—We agree that there is a tendency on the part of the Government to wobble, but we will keep our eye on them. Sorry we have none of the tickets for which you ask.

"ANTI-HUMBUG" (Eltham), commenting on Mr. Asquith's recent announcement that every member of the Liberal party was at liberty to vote as he thought fit in regard to the issue of a writ for Worcester, asks why there was not the same liberty in reference to the Education Bill. Why, indeed?

G. H. S. (Camberwell) thinks we should award Mrs. Bull a biscuit for not having divulged our secret method, at which we recently hinted, of dealing with the Suffragettes. But Mrs. Bull does not know it. She is the last person in the world to whom we should reveal it.

W. T. G. (North Wales) is thinking of taking a six-months' course of lessons from the "Dixon Institute of Scientific Salesmanship, 193-195, Oxford-street." He had much better keep his money in his pocket, and practice selling JOHN BULL. It is very easy and highly profitable. How many quires shall we send him for a start?

S. T. P. (Bethnal Green) must be an Irishman. He thinks we are "too hard on people occasionally, though no-doubt they deserve it." No, he must be a Scotchman, for he goes on to ask where he can borrow £400, and apparently he has no actual security to offer. He is very desirous of buying a business he believes to be thoroughly sound, but he does not wish to get into the hands of professional money-lenders. Won't the proprietors of the business leave the bulk of the money on loan, to be repaid with interest by instalments out of future profits?

E. G. H. (Manchester) suggests we should ask the Government to give a Cheshire farmer an order for a few frisky yearling bulls, to be placed at the various doors of the House of Commons, to keep away the lady suffragists. Hitherto almost the only kind of bulls seen there are JOHN BULLS. Perhaps that is why there have been such crowds about lately. Then there is Sir William Bull—and all the ladies dote on him. In addition, there are, of course, the Irish bulls, but they have been very quiet lately.

C. D. (Erith) thinks we "know more about Irish and Scotch whisky than of helping (the Salvation Army) in any way." He then proceeds to state that he knows JOHN BULL's record and also General Booth's, and that whilst the latter has done something JOHN BULL only talks. We feel the force of the accusation, and to prove our penitence are quite ready at any time to change jobs.

F. R. A. (London) wants to know about Collingwood's International Mercantile Directory, published at 65 and 66, Chancery Lane, London. It appears they are after him for 2s. for an announcement which he says he did not authorise. The matter is, no doubt, a very serious one, but it will have to take its turn on our inquiry list.

M. H. (Liverpool) sends us cuttings from the *Liverpool Daily Post* and the *Daily Courier*, from which it appears that a member of a firm of solicitors acting for the executors of the late Mr. Samuel Smith, and himself one of the executors, being interested in the *Daily Post*, published full particulars of Mr. Smith's will in that journal the day before furnishing them to its contemporary. It was a wicked thing to do, no doubt. We always make a point of sending anything we get to know to our contemporaries, and allow them to publish it first—especially if we doubt its veracity.

F. G. R. B. (Shanklin).—Thanks for cutting. We rather think your complaint in this particular case is a little overstrained.

Mr. P. CONNOLLY (14, Howard Street, Belfast), G. H. M. (Islington), L. B. L. (Liverpool), H. C. (Newark), A. E. J. C. (East Ham), E. B. (Manchester), A. W. B. (West Kensington), C. J. L. (London, W.), and W. A. S. (London, S.W.), all write testifying to the merits and ease of acquisition of the Sloan-Duployan shorthand, but, with the exception of Mr. Connolly, none of them refers to the important point—its applicability to absolutely verbatim work. But Mr. Connolly makes up for this omission by claiming to hold the world's record for speed—over 280 words per minute. He does not, however, mention the duration of the test and the nature of the matter dictated. We understand that the championship of the world was competed for a short time ago in America, and was won by Mr. Godfrey, a writer of the pure English Pitman system, and an employee of the Hearts of Oak Society. He sails for America in a few days to defend his title, and we would, therefore, suggest that Mr. Connolly should accompany him and fight it out. By the way, with the exception of Mr. Godfrey, all the fast writers seem to come from Ireland. Mr. Banbury, of Dublin, has been certified to write 250 words a minute on a ten-minute test, and Guinness's Brewery (in whose service Mr. Banbury is engaged) has several other very rapid writers.

W. G. M. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—We believe George Stoddart is the son of Joseph, but we are not well up in the genealogy of the family.

"ZEPHYR" (West Green) sends us an advertisement from the *Daily Chronicle* for a hustler, "who can push work through quickly and accurately with boy labour; must be non-Society." The editor of our beloved contemporary will be getting into trouble with the trade unionists if he is not more careful.

C. P. F. (Highgate) is a bookbinder—which trade is very slack in the summer. He has been engaged some time, but seeing no prospect of much improvement in his financial position, has honourably offered to release his fiancée. She, however, insists that she will marry him or die an old maid. Now comes the point. C. P. F. has £7 accumulated, and expects at the end of six months to have another £10, and at the end of the year a further £20. He seriously proposes embarking this sum in one or other of the traps advertised for the unwary, with a view to obtaining an interest in a business. The best thing he can do is to hand the money over as it comes in to his sweetheart, and let her be getting together a few odds and ends for the home with it. That will help to while away the time till he gets the ring.

"IMPRIMATEUR" (Southwark) thinks we should award ourselves a biscuit for claiming to be a non-party paper, and publishing our recent article on "The Way to Deal with the House of Lords." Perhaps "Imprimature" liked "Shall" means "May" better.

P. R. (Walthamstow) does not like our frontispiece, and suggests we should substitute for it a portrait of the editor, lying on a couch and reading JOHN BULL. Our editor, however, never lies—and never reads JOHN BULL. It's bad enough to have to write it.

"ANXIOUS."—You do not send your name and address. When you do so we shall be happy to give you the best advice in our power.

"NERO" (Ilford) sends us a copy of the *Baptist* for February 14, upon one page of which we find a long, paid-for puff of a firm of outside brokers, entitled "How to Increase Your Income—a Good Book to Read," whilst on another page is a leading article deprecating the accumulation of wealth, and stating "that piety is easier cultivated in poverty's vale than upon the cold mountain air of super-abundance." We do not, however, think there is much likelihood of those who read the outside brokers' advertisement getting to the mountain tops—they are much more likely to find themselves up a tree.

F. J. D. (Sunderland).—Thanks for suggestions, but we are afraid we cannot make any further departures at present.

"NIC" (Edgware Road) is backing a "double event"—JOHN BULL and JOHN BULL OVER-SEAS. He has already got the first horse home, so should be "on velvet."

W. G. (Nottingham) sends us cuttings from the *Daily Mail* and *Morning Leader*, containing a discrepancy respecting the prize won by her Majesty's borzoi. The alleged portraits of the dog also vary in material respects, but in neither case does the animal come up to the prize specimen bulldog depicted on our cover.

"SUSPICIOUS" (Hackney) does not like "business agents." He is desirous of disposing of his shop, and having applied to Messrs. Strohm and Strohm, of 27, King Street, Cheapside, was disgusted to find that they required a preliminary fee of a guinea for "advertising, etc." He paid the guinea, but up to time of writing had not seen any advertisement. He should have insisted upon its being put in JOHN BULL, in which case he would now have been in a position to retire on a competency.

O. P.—We have frequently referred to the illegal character of these Church lotteries.

"CORNUBIA" (Lambeth) is 20 years of age, and wishes to get into the accountant's department of one of the leading railway companies. We are afraid that unless he has special influence he will not succeed.

W. H. T. (Queen's Park) sends us a copy of the *East London Guide*, published in South Africa, containing complimentary references to and extracts from JOHN BULL. It is evident that better days have already dawned for all out there.

SEVERAL CORRESPONDENTS call our attention to the sad case of Mr. John Bull, who was recently sentenced to two months' imprisonment by Mr. Plowden for drunkenness and assault. This is not the first time that the gentleman has got into trouble, and when he comes out we shall have to get him to change his name.

T. J. M. (Mardy) wants our opinion of *Horner's Weekly Competition* scheme. He says he had a friend who met with death by accident, but the unfortunate man was unable to write, so he had simply affixed a cross to the coupons in the presence of two witnesses. Horner's people now decline to pay, on the ground that the conditions have not been complied with. They further decline to return the coupons which were sent them for inspection, although repeated applications have been made, and postage was sent them for the purpose. We should like to hear Horner's explanation.

J. W. (Hexham).—We do not see how we can help you further. We have no personal knowledge of the facts.

T. J. J. (London) is a victim of the living-in system, and "the arrival of JOHN BULL on Thursday is the only thing which brightens his lot." He wants us to deal fully with this living-in system. We will

T. H. F. (Temple) sends us counsel's opinion to the effect that winnings from occasional bets are not chargeable with income-tax. He may be right; personally, we have never had an opportunity of testing the point.

"A STAUNCH READER" (Dublin) sends us a copy of the *Freeman's Journal*, containing several letters in regard to the catering arrangements at the International Exhibition. It appears to be another injustice to Ould Oireland. It is contended by some that everything supplied in the refreshment department should be Irish—even the Scotch whisky.

W. B. (East Finchley).—It is not for us to determine the rival claims of our advertisers. Being blessed with a plentiful supply of hair, we have so far had no occasion to test their various remedies.

H. J. C. (South Hackney) sends us a newspaper cutting to the effect that it is the intention of General Booth to visit New York during his present tour. Our information is not to that effect, but hope we are wrong.

"NIL CONSCIRE SIBI" (Brondesbury) has had experience of the British Commercial Association, 45, Warwick Court, High Holborn, and is a poorer and a wiser man.

A. C. (Chester) tells us it is not in mortals to command success, but that we have done more by deserving it. We beg to inform A. C. that we have done both.

T. W. R. (Bayswater) says that although "there is a great deal in JOHN BULL with which he cannot agree, he thinks it quite the best penny weekly paper published in England." At any rate, we are glad to know that we both agree upon that point.

W. B. (London), S. C. (Peckham), and many others write in reference to the "Human Document," signed "A. D.," which recently appeared in our columns. They all express deep sympathy, and among the suggestions they make is that A. D. should not give up heart, but should fight against his feeling of depression; and that he should go in for physical culture to a moderate extent; that he should "look at his joys with a magnifying glass, and his sorrows through the wrong end of a telescope." One or two of our correspondents would like to meet him. On the other hand, A. D. himself writes us another long and even more despondent letter.

G. A. M. wants a book on casting and foundry work. He had better apply to the editor of one of our technical contemporaries, such as *Engineering*, 35, Bedford Street, Strand.

B. A. (Tonbridge) and others complain of the difficulty they experienced in getting JOHN BULL OVER-SEAS last month. The fact is, we sold out as fast as copies were supplied to the trade, but we are prepared for all contingencies in future.

D. L.—Thanks for calling our attention to verbal slips, etc. We are always glad to be pulled up by our readers.

C. L. (Fulham).—Provided you carry on a genuine trading business, there is no legal danger in the practice to which you refer.

W. J. P. (Manchester).—We do not recommend you to have any dealings with the British-American Association, of 52, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

S. G. J. (Newport, Mon.) tells us the old story of a servant girl being decoyed into signing an order for an illustrated Bible on the instalment system without understanding what she was doing, and then being dunned by threats of County Court proceedings and abusive postcards addressed to her employer's house. The firm concerned in this particular case is E. Todd and Son, of 25, St. John's Road, Clapham Junction, and we shall be glad to know what they have to say for themselves.

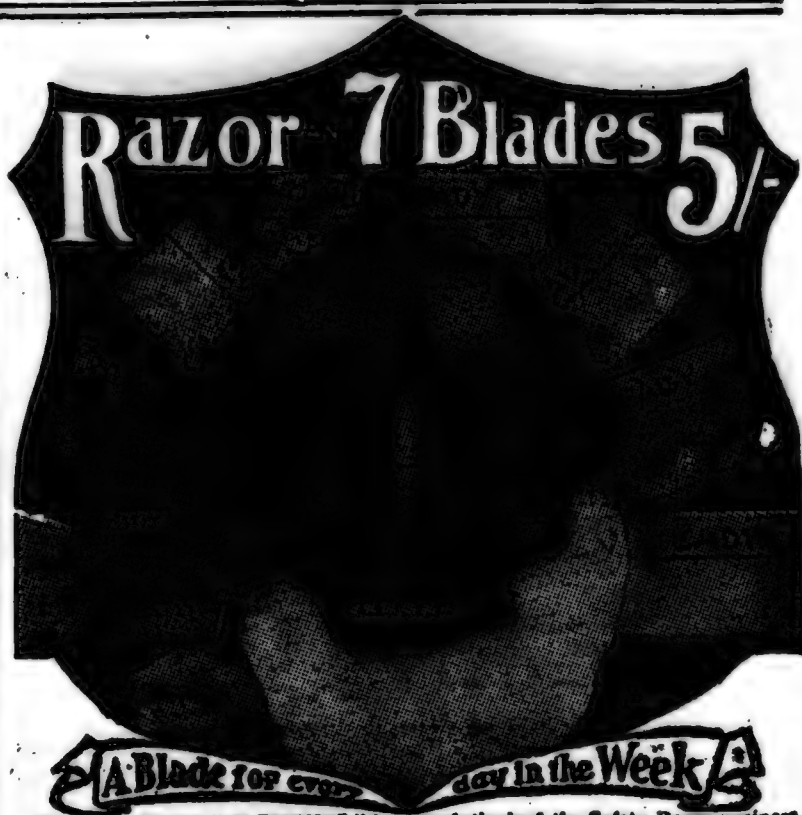
J. I. (Hove) writes a long letter on the Drink and Betting questions. As regards the former, he seems to have great solicitude for the *employés* of the "Trade," but he does not tell us that they have ever complained of the conditions under which they work. He seems to be under the delusion that the earlier closing of public-houses reduces drunkenness. We refer him to the Judicial Statistics, and to the recent debate in the House. J. I. also objects to our "Racing Notes." How many more copies will he take if we leave them out? Then J. I. puts in a final word for the Bishops. We observe that our correspondent is an optician, but he evidently looks at everything through very bad spectacles.

P. B. (London) has, like everybody else, been reading *Game's Sale News*, and wants to know whether it is really true that Mr. Gamage is "six feet broad across the shoulders." P. B., however, has omitted to notice a little comma after the word "feet." All the same, Mr. Gamage must have very broad shoulders to carry the weight of his enormous business.

L. A. C. (Maida Vale) directs our attention to an advertisement of "Teeth at Hospital Prices," telling people to "apply for letter to Lord Haldon, Hon. Secretary, The Artificial Teeth Aid Society, New Oxford Street—weekly payments accepted if necessary." We do not like the look of the advertisement, and shall be glad of further information.

F. M., Junr. (Oldham) sends us a newspaper cutting about the pea-eating champion, Mr. John Wm. Catton, of Dewsbury. It appears that this gentleman, commencing with two green peas one day, went on doubling the number until the thirteenth day's consumption reached 8,192 peas. We are not told whether they were cooked or not. Mr. Catton now offers to "eat any man in the district." We are sending down Jim Crow, who is what the slang-mongers call "peas in the pot."

W. J. (Ellesmere Port).—Thanks for interesting cuttings.



The Seven-bladed "CLEMENTS" has revolutionised the Safety Razor business of the world. Scientific machinery has made the Guinea "Safety" of yesterday a Five-shilling razor to-day.

We've dared to fix a retail price that meant a "square deal." Clements' Safety Razor sets are complete at five shillings. Seven perfect blades—a nickel silver safety frame and stropping handle, all in a compact little case.

It's the safest safety razor in history. Everybody becomes an expert barber, with the first shave—it's impossible to cut the face.

Clements' blades are guaranteed to the limit—they are the keenest, finest tempered, and easiest shaving of all-razor blades. They can be STROPPED like the ordinary razor, and will last for years. For those desirous of doing away with re-honing and re-sharpening, we will exchange seven new blades for seven dull ones and 1/6.

SHOULD YOU ALREADY HAVE A SAFETY and be bothered with sharpening, buy our blades—they will fit your safety frame. Price 6/6 per dozen, post free. We will always exchange a dozen dull blades for a dozen brand new ones at 2/6 a dozen post free. Send for free booklet.

SEND POSTAL ORDER FOR 5/-, mentioning "JOHN BULL," and receive your set prepaid, from

CLEMENTS' RAZOR CO., BILLITER ST. LONDON.

CAN BE SEEN } 99, STRAND (under Savoy Hotel), 127, HIGH HOLBORN.
AT CLEMENTS' } 42, OLD BROAD STREET. 41, GRACECHURCH STREET.
RAZOR DEPOTS } 40, MOORGATE STREET. 16, LONDON STREET, E.C.
59, FLEET STREET. 45, QUEEN VICTORIA ST.



IS THE IDEAL
SHAVING SOAP

—and British made. You will find it superior to the best American brands, and used regularly it prevents roughness and smarting of the skin.

After moistening your face with warm water apply "SHAVALLO" direct. Then a whisk or two of the moistened brush produces a firm creamy lather that softens the beard immediately, and renders shaving altogether more comfortable and refreshing.

"SHAVALLO" is in a neat Ivorine case that enables you to apply it direct with ease.

SOLD BY HAIRDRESSERS & CHEMISTS,
4/- per stick.

A stick will be forwarded direct for 1/11 if you cannot obtain "SHAVALLO" in your district.

JOHN KNIGHT, Ltd. (Dypt),
Soap Makers to the King,
The Royal Primrose Soap
Works, LONDON, E.

WALTER CLIFFORD & Co., Ltd.,

8, Mildmay Chambers,
Old Broad Street, E.C.,
82, Bishopsgate Street Within,

DEALERS IN

STOCKS AND SHARES.

Immediate Cash Payments, irrespective of Account Days.

Write for latest edition of pamphlet

"WEALTH"

Sent Free on Application—together with our Terms of Dealing.

CASH ADVANCED ON APPROVED SECURITIES.



Waltham Watches.

Our INTERESTING BOOKLET
sent POST FREE upon request.

ROBBINS AND APPLETON, 125, High Holborn, London, W.C.
(Wholesale only to the Trade.)

THE
LAST WORD
IS ON BREADS

HOVIS

The results of Science and Experience on up-to-date flour-production and efficient bread-making. Not an ordinary brown bread. A specialized product. As nourishing as it is nice, and free from all adulterants and indigestible bran.



FROM ALL BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS.

J. M. (Cheshire).—Thanks for cutting *re* Mr. Chamberlain. There is no doubt whatever as to the correctness of our statements. We are afraid the right hon. gentleman will never again be seen in the House of Commons.

V. W. (Richmond).—Thanks for long and interesting letter. Whatever view we may entertain of Mr. Chamberlain's political creed, we are sincerely sorry that he is *hors de combat*. There is a great dearth of Men in public life just now.

THE PROPRIETORS OF DR. ALABONE'S CURE take exception to our recent statement that we have not much faith in that, or any other, remedy for consumption. We quite admit that Dr. Alabone's treatment is far removed from the quack order, but that is the best we can say for it.

W. H. B. (Rotherham) thinks we improve with age. He would like to see a measure introduced providing for a plebiscite on matters of national importance. There is a good deal to be said on both sides of the question.

J. H. T. (Hackney).—No women at present have or ever have had the Parliamentary vote—that is one of their privileges. There have, however, upon a few occasions, been slips in making up the register, by which women's names have been included, and they have actually voted. Such votes would, however, be disallowed upon a scrutiny.

H. J. C. (Sheffield).—Thanks for cutting. We have no patience with the cranks of the Intemperance party.

J. W. S. (North Shields).—Thanks for calling attention to the two slips. Pray, however, do not call them "bloomers." Mrs. Bull objects to such language.

H. P. P. (South Shields).—You would scarcely describe a temporary contrivance, built round a vessel, as "her bulwarks," would you? We cannot take back the biscuit.

C. N. (Hastings) asks, "Why should woman wish to put their feet on unsafe ground?" Hear, hear—why should them?

"SYSTEM" (Birmingham).—Have nothing to do with Arnold and Wood's betting systems. Stand on Larry Lynx. After all, it is much more patriotic to lose your money in your own country.

"FAIRPLAY" (Brighton).—Sorry you do not like our Open Letter to the General, but we could not help it. We hope, all the same, he will have a pleasant and a successful tour. As with Mr. Chamberlain, although we do not approve of the man's methods, we admire the Man. He is, as you say, a wonderful old chap.

A. B. (Seven Kings), like many other readers, has been misled by the advertisement of the International Securities Syndicate, which appeared in *Answers* in the shape of an editorial, with the paper's own distinctive style of sketch at the head, depicting a blackboard bearing a sum—£5 multiplied by 1,000. The audacious sub-title, "With perfect security and no liability"! Come, come, Lord Northcliffe.

MR. JOHN BURTON, of the "Old Curiosity Shop," favours us with a printed card, headed "What is a Radical?" and this is his answer—

A man that's been crossed in love. Disappointed in business. Too lazy to work. Poking his nose into everybody's business, neglecting his own. Never patronises a barber. Gets a Conservative to lend him money with an idea of never returning it. Upsets the happiness of his household. Won't afford the common necessities of life. Wants to go in for the Laws of Equity, and wrench from another man his hard earnings.

F. S. (Norbiton) sends us a cutting containing the report of a meeting of creditors of J. G. Graves, Limited, of Sheffield. Claims under £100 are, it is stated, to be paid as they become due, those over that amount to be discharged by 24 monthly instalments. Perhaps this affords some explanation of the vigour with which their customers have been pressed for payments in arrear. It will be remembered that a somewhat similar course was adopted when Yandell (alias A. Thomas and Co., etc.) was in difficulties. It was stated that J. G. Graves, Limited, collect £22,000 monthly, on the average, their customers taking about ten months to pay their accounts.

"A GLASGOW READER" and others want to know what has become of Mr. Frank Harris. The answer is that, having become editor of *Vanity Fair*, the duties of that position at present occupy all his time. Those, therefore, who wish to keep in touch with his work should buy *V.F.*

J. P. W. (Kimberley) is one of our many readers over-seas, and wants us to keep on at the subject of Chinese labour. We think, however, we will now leave it with the new Legislature, who, apart from humanitarian considerations, should be the best judges of the "regrettable necessity," as the Archbishop of Canterbury called it.

E. H. N. writes us all the way from Jaunde, The Cameroons, telling us that our journal has "hit on" out there. E. H. N. had to spend Christmas alone "with the nearest white man a day's march away." We send him hearty greetings and good wishes from all John Bullites.

MESSRS. KIDD AND Co., Alyth, Perthshire, have sent us a sample box of each kind of their tonic pills—"the great Scotch cure for indigestion, constipation, biliousness, bloodlessness, and all stomach troubles." As this phrase exactly summarises what Jim Crow suffers from, we think we will first try the pills on him.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

["Larry Lynx" of "The People."]

Staple.

Among those who are returning to our sporting advertisement columns for this season are Messrs. Robert Masters, Crook and Co., who are as reliable to-day as they were under the old-time style of Crook and Co., fifty years ago.

Does it Pay Better?

What a number of Service men are now trainers of race horses!

Money Talks.

If there is anything amiss with a candidate for a big race in which there is ante-post betting, you want to enquire in the clubs—not on the training-grounds.

An Exception.

Some, perhaps, spend more than they earn, but F. Mason is a marvel in this sense. He saves every copper possible, and is quite a big freehold property owner.

Has Big Aintree Hopes.

Mr. W. B. Partridge, the owner of Timothy Titus, is one of the wealthiest men in England. He is a coal-owner and contractor, resident at Bacton, near Hereford, and was recently made a director of the Great Western Railway Company.

Metamorphosis.

What a difference there is nowadays to even two seasons back in hurdle-racing and the manner of riding. Then it was usual for jockeys to go along all the way, while now we see consummate artists like Aylin, Hare, Dillon and Butchers sitting still and finishing properly from the last hurdle.

A Real Samaritan.

The famous little Torquay pony, "Tom Thumb," who is only twelve hands, is coming up to the Polo Pony Show as a collector on behalf of the "Arthur Birch" fund. His owner, Miss Edith Turner, has already worked zealously for this splendid cause, although a stranger to Birch. I spent Monday afternoon with Birch, who has always been valiant and bright, but is exceptionally so now, doubtless due to the change, but more especially the hope of recovery which buoys him up. The crucial treatment has not yet been applied, but gradually his dislocated spine is being treated, and one of the three displaced vertebrae and his fractured ribs are already replaced. He sleeps and eats better, being altogether very cheerful. The latest donors to my fund—which originated in the columns of JOHN BULL, and now exceeds £1,600—are Sir Peter Walker and Lord and Lady Suffolk.

Very True.

The secret of Gore's successes with his own few horses is that he is not hampered by various restrictions and changes of mind so general with owners. Just when a trainer has his horse fit the owner will probably not run him at a certain venue, being prejudiced against the executive, because he cannot get a certain jockey, or be at the gathering himself. Then, when everything extraneous is in order, the horse himself goes off colour.

The Duo of Steeplechase Riders.

The fact that Otto Maddar took out a licence expressly for the one ride under National Hunt rules upon Heatree

in the Welter Flat Race at Hooton Park last week, recalls the fact that the event has usually fallen to a flat-race jockey—Walkington last year and Bernard Dillon the previous season. This, to my mind, is a great injustice to those who earn a precarious living as steeplechase horsemen, for if there is one little plum, such as a flat race in which they could have a mount it is their due, and they should not be supplanted by a flat-race jockey, especially such as Madden or Dillon, who are not alone well-off, but have endless chances of making thousands where their more unfortunate heavier-bodied confrères earn shillings. In fact, I consider it a matter of very bad taste for a "fashionable" flat race horseman to accept such mounts.

A Drain upon Owners.

My opinion is that the Derby—and all our classic and other races—close much too prematurely. It simply means that owners are compelled to take the risk of entry with horses of whom they can know absolutely nothing, and thus they mulct themselves in unnecessarily heavy forfeits. An appropriate time for entries for classic events to be received is about the February preceding the race itself, when owners and trainers would know something of the merits of their horses, and would gladly pay an increased entrance-fee for those that possessed some chance. It would assuredly mean bigger fields, for as it is, many horses who could not win in a selling race are left to oppose the best of their year who are entered, and, as with Cyllene, the actual "cracks" are not eligible. Thus the Derby, really intended to be "the" race of the year, and to fall to the best horse of his year, becomes utterly falsified.

The Jumping Season.

Although every day now until next month end has its little local hunt meeting (more enjoyable than many of the biggest features), it is a fact that henceforward general interest in steeplechasing evaporates. We shall now meet with an utterly different set of men and horses for the flat race forces are almost entirely distinct from the jumping brigade, and with Jockey Cub rules a new, and vastly increased, body of attendants and followers reappear. The waning jumping season has not been anything out of the common, entailing nothing beyond a sentence in comment. The class of recruits has been very average, for the promised debutante, Roseate Dawn, never carried silk, although I understand, that it is the intention of his owner to run him in the big Paris Hurdle Race in June. Hartigan's stable was the fashionable and most successful establishment on the higher plane, while Bob Gore picked up all the little plums in sellings, etc. Late in the season George Butchers did uncommonly well with a very limited string. The unlucky establishments have been Hastings' at Wroughton, and Batho's, at Alfriston, the latter in particular having nothing of the least account to train, and no one can win races without the horses. Hastings' team were pretty useful—especially his steeplechasers—but whenever they were really fancied they had the bad luck, as a rule, to be second. The most expensive new hand at hurdling was Round Dance, who cost £1,000, but I should say he was inferior to and certainly very much less successful than the £70 Dafila. Mayhap the best of the lot is Mr. Stedall's "thick" little chestnut, Simonson, a very, very moderate animal on the flat, although he cost £500 for jumping. What our horses really are is best shown from the fact that Wild Aster—for whom no one would bid after his winning a selling steeplechase a year ago—and Rassendyl—also an ex-plater and a £250 purchase of the previous winter—were

CRITERION EAST ROOM

Restaurant of the Highest Class.
Luncheon, 4s. Dinner, 10s. 6d.

Cuisine Véritablement Fine.
Supper, 5s. and à la carte.

MUSIC.

far and away the crack hurdle race performers. In steeple-chasing nothing has done as well, or been as lucky, as Domino, while at times Oatlands has been brilliant. The rest have all been, not alone moderate, but all of a heap, to beat each other in turn, which is confirmed by nothing stronger than the fact that next week's Grand National is not alone a stone behind last year's class, but quite two stone behind such years as Cloister's or Manifesto's. The 'chasing Blue Riband is this time really only contested by a lot of moderate third rate handicappers. Amongst such anything might well happen. The past jumping season has certainly been marked by extraordinary inconsistencies. At this game it is usually considered a paying policy to follow favourites, but an uncommon number have been beaten, even long odds-on chances going down; and in the rich stakes of quite recent weeks absolutely unpriced horses such as Oatlands, Carnegie, Whipsnade, and Alderman have won events for which they had, on the book or on form, no earthly chance. Almost universally backers are complaining of a bad winter, and yet bookmakers, too, vow that they have had very few winning weeks, and many aver that they will not "bet to money" again during the close time for flat racing.

Lincoln.

It is a very long way ahead, at the time of writing, to give a final selection for next week's big race. My ideas are that HIS EMINENCE will about win, whilst there is the greatest danger in ROSEATE DAWN, if started, and fancied, although not yet quoted.

Fortunately, I can deal with the Grand National again, but now adhere to the opinion that if the horse goes to the post fit and well, whatever beats

WOLF'S FOLLY

will win. The horse hit himself at Sandown, so there is an "if," and unless really himself he will not be started, for it would be a pity to ruin a good horse permanently.

In the week's minor events BONAR or GLENELY may take the Bushey Handicap at Hurst Park to-day (Thursday), and JANNAWAY and WARE their Lingfield engagements.

A Real Photo.

Nothing is better liked than a good sporting picture, and in one's travels they come across framed and treasured photos of old-time cracks of the Turf. Like everything else, the reproduction has usually been very crude, although nothing livens a wall up more or carries with it greater conviction of pleasant times (and probably monetary successes) than the studying of a picture portraying famous men and horses. Hitherto big race winners or Derby victors have been published in a certain style—usually at a cost of five shillings each. Recognising this and the need for a really cheap popular picture, the proprietors of JOHN BULL have sensibly grasped the opportunity, and will publish next week a memento of the most popular "double" event of the last racing of the season. It takes the shape in portraits of Mintagon and Polymelus, the respective winners of the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire, and over which the general public won so much money. Who would not give sixpence to have a memento of such a success? The picture to be published next week is a photographic reproduction in facsimile colours equal to hand colouring, and a contrast to the lithographic "daubs" from imaginary horses glossed over by high colouring. Nothing LIKE THIS has EVER been attempted. It is a new and expensive process, and yet by ordering enormous quantities JOHN BULL is able to just cover the actual cost by offering them to its readers at sixpence each.

Will Have Great Future Value.

The horses are so absolutely life-like that even their markings and muscles are visible; each has its jockey, Trigg and Maher respectively up, and each jockey has autographed the picture. The autographed photo. of the writer has also been added, which will satisfy a vast number continually writing to the "People" office for my photo. or

We are reminded of the well-managed business of Mr. D. M. Gant, 25, Conduit Street, London, W., by the receipt of a handsome pocket book bound in scarlet leather, gilt-edged, and with neat contrivances and useful contents that go to make it a handy companion. Mr. Gant is an institution. He has survived the common vicissitudes of a trying business, and those who deal with him should have no cause for dissatisfaction. He has been established many years, and he himself is a well-known member of Tattersalls' Subscription Rooms, which is a testimonial that requires no further recommendation. Mr. Gant was the originator of the "No Limit" system, that is to say, he was the first turf accountant to pay his clients the full odds betted against a horse. Write for a copy of the diary. Free to all clients.

autograph, or both. It is surely easily enough obtainable now. The whole is not an imaginary picture, but an actual coloured photograph, and would grace any private house or public room. Although a huge number have been ordered, it must be a case of first come first served, and for each order sent direct to the publisher and accompanied by a remittance of sixpence, the picture will be forwarded free in a postal tube. I never gave a stronger or better tip to my followers than to have one of these, and I should be glad to hear what recipients really think of them.

ESTABLISHED 1861.

JAMES WEBSTER,

MIDDELBURG, HOLLAND.

LINCOLN HANDICAP, GRAND NATIONAL, &c.
THE TURF CHRONICLE, sent free on receipt of address. Double and Treble Events.
NO COMMISSION CHARGED on Starting Price Investments.
Bankers:— { England—London and Westminster Bank, London,
Scotland—Bank of Scotland, Glasgow.
Ireland—Bank of Ireland, Dublin.
Postage 2½d. Postcards 1d.

ESTABLISHED IN 1848.

ROBERT MASTERS, CROOK AND CO.
FLUSHING, HOLLAND.

Our Pocket Book for 1907 is now ready, and will be forwarded free on receipt of address.

C H A R L E S L E V Y,
28, REGENT ST., S.W.

(Business as usual during the winter.)

Telegraphic Address: "FOREJUDGE, LONDON."

Telephones:

3615 GERRARD. 4190 CENTRAL.

Telegraphic Address: "IRISHMAN, LONDON."

Telephone: No. 5072 GERRARD.

E. C. IRISH,

7, ARGYLL STREET, W.

W. G. MORTIMER,
51, LEXINGTON STREET,
REGENT STREET, W.

Best Terms.

Particulars Free.

Established 1876.

W. H. SAUNDERS'

Telegraphic Address is

"PLASTERING, LONDON."

TRACE AND PERCY,
15, JERMYN ST., LONDON, S.W.

Every description of business undertaken. Advantageous terms post free on Application.

"LARRY LYNX," in the "People," April 1, 1906, attributes our success to straightforwardness and accuracy.

A. HEATHORN,
51, WARWICK STREET, REGENT STREET, W.
Business continued through the winter, as usual.
Accounts opened on approved references.
Telephones: 4171 Gerrard, and 11220 Central.
Telegraphic Address: Fretting, London.

THOMAS HENRY DEY,
TURF COMMISSION AGENT,
MIDDELBURG, HOLLAND.

The most advantageous Terms of any responsible Bookmaker in the World.

Full particulars, price list, ready reckoner, and book of rules gratis and post free on application.

"John Bull Over-Seas."

MY DEAR READERS,

The March Number of "John Bull Over-Seas" will be On Sale on March 20. It will contain much to interest you, including—

The Truth About Emigration.

A Military Scandal in South Africa.

Sugar and Philanthropy.

The Chartered Company and Native Risings.

Do not forget to Order Early. On Sale Everywhere,
Price 3d. (Postage 1½d.) on March 20.

Yours truly, JOHN BULL.

Offices: 4, RED LION COURT, E.C., where all communications should be addressed.

A BOON TO CITY MEN.

10 Minutes from Rail and Nice Country Town, and 25 miles from London.



FREE DEEDS.

NO LAW COSTS.

NO SURVEY

FEEES.

Good six-room residences as above on a large plot of land, with bath and every modern convenience, for £285. Water laid on. Good roads.

Land from £35 an acre.

POSSESSION ON PAYMENT OF 10%, BALANCE SPREAD OVER 21 YEARS.

Week-end and Holiday Residences for £125.

Write for particulars of above and large illustrated book of estates in 11 different counties, or, if possible, call.

HOMESTEADS (R.) LTD., 27, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, W.C.

When the Roots are not healthy and strong, or when they are affected by Germs, YOUR HAIR will not—indeed, ~~cannot~~—grow
THAT IS WHY, NOTHING CAN BE ANY GOOD FOR EXCEPT

HAIR WHICH FALLING OUT OR IS PREMATURELY GREY CAPSULOIDS

Magnified diseased hair as seen through the microscope, showing how all the connections at the bottom were destroyed by germs, after which it became loose and simply fell out. This hair is now under the microscope in the Capsuloid Company's office.



Magnified strong healthy hair, as seen through the microscope, showing how its healthy root was so firmly fastened at the bottom that when it was pulled it tore away all the surrounding tissues from the bottom of the follicle. This hair is under the microscope in the Capsuloid Company's office.

This central diagram shows how a hair grows from the scalp. You can see it draws all its nourishment from the little blood vessel which runs to the bottom of its root. All the growth of the hair occurs at that point. The growing cells draw their nourishment from the blood, and multiply and push upwards, so that although you may see hair several feet long, all the growth of that hair has occurred, and is occurring, and always will occur only at the very bottom of the hair root.

The germs are there also, and just as the only means of nourishing the hair is through the blood, so also the only means of killing the germs is through the blood. Look at the three pictures and use your own common sense. Do not imagine that this is a subject which can be understood by doctors alone. Although there was nothing but ignorance on this subject for the past five thousand years, our advertisements during the past few years have taught you enough about the hair that you should no longer be influenced, but should be able to see how preposterous it is to try to cure by rubbing stuff on the hair and scalp, when a cure, you can see just as well as the doctors can see, must be something which passes through the blood, direct to those harmful germs, causing their death, and then nourishing the growing cells, and making the hair roots firm again, and then causing the hair to grow once more in perfect health. We have so often given proof, that we do not need to tell you again that the first and only remedy which has ever been discovered that can do this is

Doctors inform us that while they find remarkable effects on the hair from Capsuloids, they do not find benefit from Iron or Haemoglobin. Capsuloids are entirely unlike the Iron and Haemoglobin pressed upon the public as imitations of, or just the same as, Capsuloids.

1, Glosa Court, James Street, Carlisle.
GENTLEMEN,—I am sending you a photograph of my daughter so that you may see what wonderful hair she has. Before using Capsuloids her head was like a piece of polished marble, except that she had a very small patch of hair at the back of her head. We tried everything, but to no purpose. She attended the Dispensary under Dr. where ointments and lotions were used. Then we sent her to the C. Infirmary under Dr. where they blistered her head, and then used ointments. This caused her such pain and suffering that we had to stop it, as we preferred she should remain bald rather than suffer so. Then we heard of Capsuloids, and decided to try them, although Dr. who saw her at the time advised her to throw them away, but as all the treatment at the Dispensary, and Hospital, and elsewhere had failed, we gave her the Capsuloids. The photograph proves how wonderful the effect of Capsuloids has been.



We are, most gratefully, yours truly, ALFRED DIXON.

C-A-P-S-U-L-O-I-D-S

Dose—TWO CAPSULOIDS THREE TIMES DAILY. PRICE, 2s. 3d. PER BOX. SPECIAL SAMPLE given when this Coupon is enclosed and three boxes are ordered direct from us. Larger sample with six. Send for valuable FREE HAIR BOOKLET, which gives full EXPLANATIONS.

COUPON.
 JOHN BULL, 16.3.07.

The CAPSULOID COMPANY, LTD., 47, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

FRENCH OR GERMAN. BY POST, IN CLASSES, OR PRIVATELY.

For 30 Years Mr. Hugo has been teaching Languages, and studying the difficulties of many thousands of pupils. This course is the result of daily experiment to one end—to make Languages easy of acquirement, to teach ONLY WHAT IS REALLY ESSENTIAL, and to teach that thoroughly. Hugo's new 1907 Self-Tuition Course gives a practical mastery of the important part of the language in an incredibly short time.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK FRENCH

I OR GERMAN ?

IT IS SO EASY IF YOU TAKE

HUGO'S 1907 Self-Tuition
 Course BY POST.

2/6 Monthly for 12 Months
 is not an expensive way of acquiring
 one of the most useful Languages.

HUGO'S LANGUAGE SCHOOLS.

(Established over 30 Years).

33, GRACECHURCH STREET, CITY; 303, HOLBORN, W.C.; 232, REGENT STREET, OXFORD CIRCUS; 198 EARL'S COURT ROAD, S.W.

SMALL CLASSES.

NATIVE TEACHERS.

PRIVATE LESSONS.

"SPECIAL OFFER TO JOHN BULL" READERS OF A 50/- Course for 30/-.

This offer may at any time be withdrawn; but by sending your first instalment of 2s. 6d. AT ONCE, you ensure joining on these temporarily reduced terms.

For this 30s. you at present get

1. Fifty self-Tuition Lessons, sent post free in weekly booklet of 16 pages each
2. A collection of copyright practice-tables.
3. Six class lessons of one hour each, or six private lessons of twenty minutes each orally or by post
4. A set of Hugo's unequalled Text Books—Value of French Books, 15s.; of the German, 10s.

BOOKLETS FIT POCKET.

LARGE CLEAR TYPE.

HUGO'S COPYRIGHT PRACTICE-TABLES and **BOOKLETS** enable Students to begin to **SPEAK** and **WRITE FRENCH or GERMAN** in simple language from the very first lesson.

Write for Prospectus and Specimen Booklet.

Mentioning "JOHN BULL" is essential.